

YORKSHIRE

With an Introduction by
THE VERY REV. W. R. INGE, D.D.
Dean of St. Paul's



F. R. PEARSON

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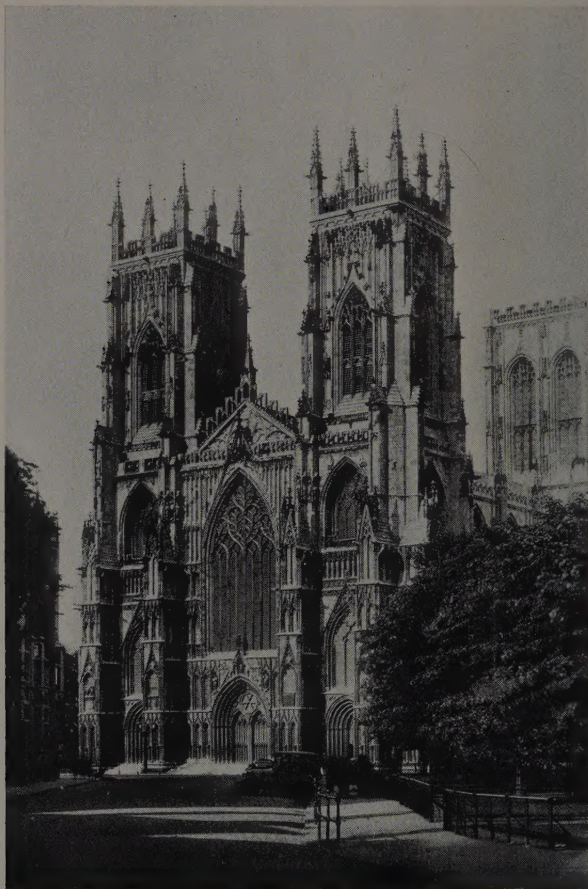
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YORKSHIRE



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YORK MINSTER

On this site stood the church of wood in which Edwin of Northumbria
was baptised on Easter Day, A.D. 627.

THE BORZOI COUNTY HISTORIES

General Editor : S. J. MADGE, M.Sc., F.S.A.

YORKSHIRE

BY

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TO
MY WIFE
WHOSE LOVE OF OUR NATIVE COUNTY
IS AS GREAT AS MY OWN

INTRODUCTION

BY THE VERY REVEREND W. R. INGE, D.D., C.V.O.,
DEAN OF ST. PAUL'S

A MAN'S real home is the home of his childhood. Whatever he may see and hear and learn afterwards, it is as a child that he first comes to know this wonderful world, and the scenes which stimulated his dawning intelligence will still be fresh to him when old age has dulled and half obliterated later memories. For this reason, though my family belongs to the Midlands, and though my working life has been spent in other parts of England, I claim the right to call myself a Yorkshireman. My grandfather, Edward Churton, Archdeacon of Cleveland, was for forty years Rector of Crayke ; my father was his curate when I was a child ; and it is to this romantically beautiful village, crowned by its church and castle, once a fortress of the Bishops of Durham, that all my earliest memories belong. It is in the very heart of Yorkshire—not the bustling West Riding, with its smoke and wealth and crowds, but the old agricultural Yorkshire, inhabited at that time by rather dour and stubborn people, speaking the slow broad dialect which it does one good to hear, a people not quick to give their confidence, but true as steel to those who have once won it. The view from the hill top was an epitome of the North Riding. The wide

plain of York lay at our feet, with the massive pile of the Minster breaking the sky-line like a great ship at sea. In the west were the Hambleton Hills, with their white horse ; to the north the picturesque hills about Yearsley. How well I remember our little town of Easingwold, then without a railway ; the hilly road to Coxwold—Sterne's Coxwold—past Sir George Wombwell's park ; the long flat drive to York ; the little station at Alne ; the ' excursions ' to Byland Abbey and Rievaulx, the latter in a carrier's wagon ; and not least, the village cricket club, where my father and his brother, both Oxford Blues, helped Crayke (by no means always) to defeat the neighbouring villages. It is my sole and small complaint against the author of this little book that though he has commemorated all the other glories of his county in an admirable way, he has forgotten the Yorkshire cricket eleven, so often champion county under the captaincy of Lord Hawke, who was my contemporary at Eton. My childhood was in the days of the touring elevens of professionals, who played against twenty-two of (say) Easingwold and district. These matches were grotesque affairs from the point of view of scientific cricket, but excellent as keeping up interest in the game, and discovering promising youngsters to be trained for the county team.

No less clear are my memories of Whitby, Robin Hood's Bay, Redcar, and Coatham, where we used to go to get rid of childhood's ailments; Whitby especially, with its double pier and its ruined abbey, lately a target for German guns, and its queer old parish church, with an outside staircase into a gallery, and (fifty-five years ago) a paralysed Irish vicar who was wheeled in and

fulminated in a black gown against the ‘apostate papists.’

In later life I have often revisited my native county. I have preached in the Minster at the consecration of a bishop ; received an honorary degree at Sheffield ; made friends at Leeds and other West Riding towns ; wandered about Settle and Ingleborough, where the streams mysteriously vanish into the bowels of the earth ; walked through Wensleydale and Wharfedale ; spent a week in a village inn at Hawnby ; looked after the parish at Kirby Underdale during the vicar’s absence ; and finally, this year, I have received a very warm welcome at Hull. So there is not much of the big county that I do not know something about.

There is something characteristic about the very physiognomy of the Yorkshireman. He is much more of a Dane or a Viking than a Saxon. He is usually a big upstanding man, who looks as if he could take very good care of himself and those who depend upon him, in any emergency. This is indeed the character that his neighbours give him ; the southerner may think him a little hard ; but if ever our country is let down by its inhabitants, we may be sure that it will not be the fault of Yorkshire.

It is a pleasure to write a preface to a book in which both the natural features and the history of the county are so admirably described. No part of England is richer in mediæval remains, whether ecclesiastical or secular. The abbeys alone would give an object for a delightful tour, which would lead the visitor through some of the prettiest parts of the county. And no one who has seen Richmond Castle can ever forget it. Others, quite legitimately, will be more interested in

the new great towns, with their active municipal and political life, and their flourishing universities and schools. All tastes alike have been considered in this little book, which I cordially recommend to all lovers of the greatest of English counties.

W. R. I.

AUTHOR'S PREFACE

IN dealing with the largest of all English counties in so small a space, I have found it necessary to confine my attention rigorously to essentials, though I hope the following pages are not a mere catalogue of events but, in some measure, a readable explanation of the great part played by Yorkshire in English history.

Like all workers in this field, I must acknowledge my indebtedness to the *Victoria County History*; Price's *County of the White Rose* has also proved a most useful compendium of interesting material, whilst for many years I have found inspiration and delight in Fletcher's *Picturesque History of Yorkshire*.

My thanks are also due to Mr. S. J. Madge, the General Editor of this Series, for the care he has taken in reading these pages in manuscript and for the many invaluable suggestions he has made, particularly with regard to the Glossary; to Mr. G. Mackay for redrawing my maps and plans; and to Mr. W. V. Garrard, whose artistic skill, as revealed in the line illustrations, has added materially to the value of this little book.

F. R. P.

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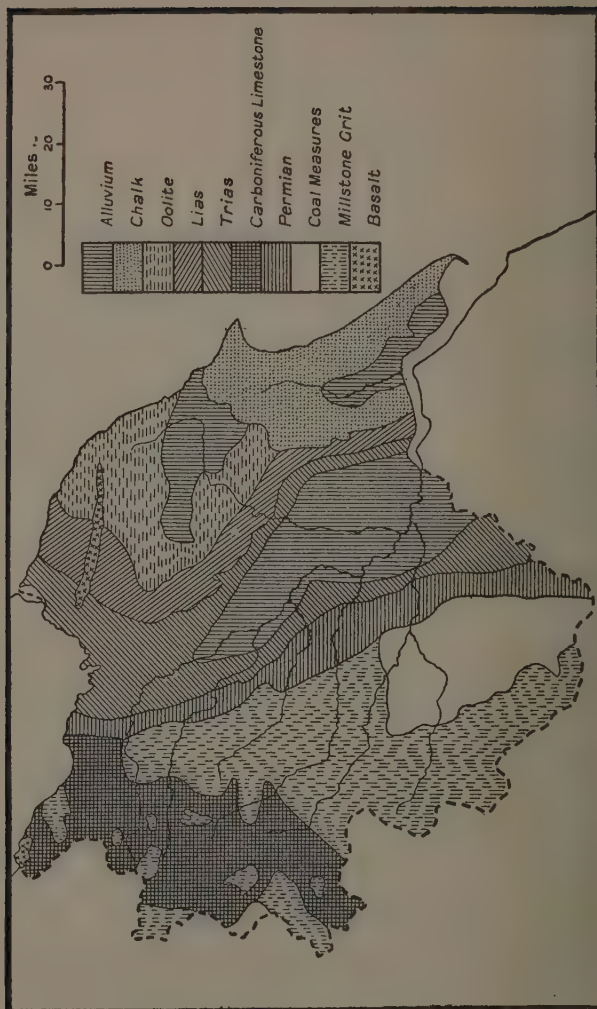
YORKSHIRE

CHAPTER I

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GEOLOGY

YORKSHIRE, 'The Shire of the Broad Acres,' well merits its proud title, for it is the largest of British counties. It is only a little smaller, indeed, than the whole of Wales, so that it is really more of a kingdom than a shire, for it can show within its ample borders every type of English scenery. The population of Yorkshire, moreover, is nearly one-tenth of that of the United Kingdom, though this is largely concentrated in the south-western part of the county, and there are wide-spreading moors and lonely wolds in the north and east, where, even to-day, villages are few and far between.

Few English counties have played so large a part in the making of the nation. From the far-off times when the Roman legions marched north along Ermine Street to found an 'Altera Roma' in the heart of Yorkshire, down to the Great War in our own day, Yorkshire men and women have left their mark upon our island story. How and why they did so, it will be the purpose of this book to tell ; but we must first of all look at the 'lie of the land,' as it were, for we cannot really understand the history of any place unless we know something about its geography. An occasional glance at the atlas will make our study all the more interesting.



When we examine a simple geological map, such as the one given in this chapter, we notice that the rocks which lie beneath the soil of Yorkshire are of many different kinds. But they are nearly all alike in one respect, for with few exceptions they were formed millions of years ago below the sea. The majority of the rocks are, therefore, what the geologist calls 'sedimentary.' In fact, there are only two examples in the county of 'igneous' rocks, that is, volcanic rocks, formed by the action of fire. One of these is to be found in the extreme north-western corner, near Middleton-in-Teesdale on the Durham border, where the Tees leaps over the great precipice known as High Force; the other is a long, straight belt of rocks stretching in an easterly direction across the Cleveland Hills from Yarm, near Stockton-on-Tees, to the coast at Ravenscar, and known as the Cleveland Dyke.

Another point to note is that the rocks occur in layers, or strata, which dip gradually from west to east, the oldest rocks forming the lowest section, and the newer ones resting upon them. In different parts of the county, therefore, different kinds of rocks come nearest to the surface, and this helps to account for the various types of scenery in which Yorkshire is so rich. We have the limestone, with its crisp, green turf, on the breezy Pennine uplands to the west; the oolites—composed of sandstones and shales—on the heather-clad moors beyond Pickering; the coal measures in the grimy south-west around Leeds and Sheffield; and the chalk on the rolling Yorkshire wolds that come out to the sea in the white cliffs of Flamborough.

But we must not forget that Yorkshire was once under the ice as well, long after it had become dry land, and

although it is impossible to say how long ago this was, some authorities consider that it must be 25,000 years since the last glacier appeared in these parts. There is much evidence of glacial action in Yorkshire. In the churchyard of the village of Grosmont, near Whitby, for instance, there is a large boulder that appears to have been carried from Shap Fell in Westmorland, 100 miles away, through what is now the Plain of York, between the Pennines and the Cleveland Hills. A second Yorkshire glacier is considered by some to have crossed the North Sea towards the east coast, so that the rivers which flowed into the sea there found their mouths closed by a solid wall of ice, and consequently had to get rid of their waters in some other way. This fact helps to explain certain curious things on the map of Yorkshire. The River Derwent, for example, rises only five or six miles from the sea near Scarborough, but as it could not discharge itself into the sea because of the ice, it had to change its course for 100 miles until it reached the Humber. Another river near Filey similarly found its passage blocked by the advancing ice, and so overflowed its banks, forming a great lake in the low-lying Vale of Pickering, where the London and North-Eastern Railway now runs from Malton to Scarborough. Although the vale is now covered by rich cornfields and green meadow land, the little village of Flotmanby reminds us that the Danes, who settled there, may have needed a 'flotman,' or ferryman, to row them over the waters of the lake. In this way, therefore, the ice, like the sea before it, has left its mark upon the map.

Apart from the work of natural forces such as ice

and water, the story of Yorkshire has been very greatly affected by the actual position of the county on the map of England. In shape it is a great quadrilateral, with clearly defined natural boundaries on three of its sides. On the east, for nearly 100 miles, from the low, sandy promontory of Spurn Point to the mouth of the Tees, its shores are washed by the North Sea ; on the west, the Pennine Chain forms a formidable barrier against Lancashire and Westmorland ; while on the north it is separated from Durham by the Tees. Only on the south is there no definite natural boundary. In early times, however, Yorkshire was protected on this side by wide-spreading marshes, and marsh, as Mr. Belloc reminds us, has been ' the chief obstacle to travel from the beginning of time.' These marshes stretched from the head of the Humber near Goole to the lower slopes of the Pennines beyond Wakefield and Barnsley, and it was not until the days of Charles the First, in the seventeenth century, that they were drained by the Dutch engineer, Cornelius Vermuyden. We shall see in a later chapter that they formed one of the principal difficulties encountered by the Roman roadmakers in Britain.

It is clear, therefore, that in early times Yorkshire would be chiefly open to attack on its eastern side, that is, from the sea. If we draw a straight line due east from Spurn Point across the North Sea, we shall find that it touches land again on the flat, sandy coast of Denmark, and this is the district from which our English forefathers set out in their long ships to plunder and then to conquer Britain after the departure of the Romans in the fifth century ; and 200 years later the next race of invaders, the Danes, followed

the same route. Yorkshire, therefore, because of its geographical situation, felt the full force of these attacks.

The Humber afforded a convenient passage into the heart of Yorkshire and the Midlands, for the rivers that flow into that estuary drain nearly one half of England, and they were easily navigable. As an indication of the many peoples who settled on the spot where York now stands, we may note that the Britons called the place Eburach, the Romans Eburacum, the Angles Eoferwik, and the Danes Jorvik, until finally its name became York, as we now know it. It is indeed one of the most historic sites in our land.

Thus we can see how important it is to know something about the geography of our district before we can hope to understand the meaning of its history. Let us now turn our attention to the first people who dwelt in these northern parts in the days before the invention of written records.

CHAPTER II

PREHISTORIC YORKSHIRE

THE earliest remains of these primitive Yorkshire folk are made of stone, which they could work into the form of tools and weapons without the help of fire, and so the first men who inhabited this land are called the men of the Stone Age. The very earliest period is known as the Palæolithic or Old Stone Age, but when these people lived here we cannot tell, although it appears to have been at a time when our land was joined to the continent of Europe, and the Yorkshire rivers were tributaries of the Rhine, which probably entered the sea somewhere to the north of the Shetland Islands. The men of the Old Stone Age, therefore, would find little difficulty in working their way across the English Channel, for it was then dry land. But they never seem to have reached Yorkshire, as their stone implements have not been found at any place north of Creswell Caves in Derbyshire.

Some wonderful remains of the animals of the Old Stone Age have been discovered, however, and these are preserved in the museums at York, Whitby, and Scarborough. They have come from the famous cavern at Kirkdale, near Kirby Moorside, known as the Hyæna's Den, which was discovered by some quarrymen a century ago. They consist of the bones

of twenty-two different species of animals. Besides the remains of 300 hyænas, there are bones of the elephant, hippopotamus, rhinoceros, tiger, bear, ox and deer, and the fact that no single skull has been found entire seems to prove that these creatures preyed upon each other in those far-distant times.

When we come to the next race that inhabited our island, there is evidence that they reached Yorkshire in their wanderings. These were the Neolithic, or men of the New Stone Age. They were short and dark, of a type still prevalent in South Wales and Ireland, and archæologists think that they may have made their way from Spain, at a time when the last traces of ice had vanished and Britain was once again joined to the continent. Hence they are sometimes termed Iberians, from the old Latin name of Spain. They were certainly more civilised than their predecessors, for they knew the use of fire, and could weave their cloth and build dwellings of wood. A most interesting example of the latter was discovered some years ago at Ulrome, a little village on the Holderness coast, between Bridlington and Hornsea. Here, in a bed of peat, which marked the site of some prehistoric lake, two platforms made of logs were found, resting on stakes driven into the bed of the lake. On these the lake dwellers had constructed a couple of wooden huts, doubtless as a protection against savage beasts. When the site was excavated, there also came to light stone weapons and pottery, as well as round stones for pounding corn—an indication that in culture these people were far in advance of the men of the Old Stone Age.

Another Yorkshire discovery of Neolithic remains

was made in the Victoria Cave, near Settle, in the West Riding, during the year 1838. Here were unearthed, not only the bones of animals, but also spears and arrowheads of flint, with which the men of the New Stone Age hunted their prey in the days when Yorkshire was a wilderness, and its hills and forests were the home of creatures long ago extinct.

Ages passed, and a new race appeared with a civilisation of a higher type. These people, the Celts as they are usually called, understood the use of bronze and iron, and their advent brings us down to really 'historic' times. Like the earlier races, the Celts came from the south, and they appear to have made their first settlements in Britain many hundreds of years before the time of Christ. Crossing the Channel in their coracles—for our country was now again an island—they landed in the district we call Kent, and spread along the eastern side of Britain until they reached Yorkshire, where their remains are extremely abundant. These are of two kinds: the mounds of earth under which they buried their dead, and the earthworks which they raised as a defence against their foes.

Their circular burial mounds, or 'barrows,' have been found on Rombalds Moor at Ilkley, but they are far more plentiful on the chalk wolds of the East Riding and the north-eastern moors. Numbers of them are shown on the Ordnance Map of North Yorkshire under the name of 'howes.' Most of them have been excavated and have furnished numerous objects in bronze and stone, for the Celts, especially in the north, still continued to employ the latter, even after they had learnt the use of metals. In one of these

burial mounds at Arras, near Market Weighton, the remains of a chariot and its driver were discovered, and we may see in the museum at York the iron rims of the wheels that ran over our ancient trackways so many centuries ago.

When we come to examine the entrenchments, however, we find it difficult to decide whether they were dug as places of refuge against wolves, or whether they are part of some great system of defence, though the latter is probably the more likely explanation. For when the first race of Celts, who were called Goidels, or Gaels, had been settled here for some centuries, another branch of the same great family appears to have attacked Yorkshire, this time from the sea. These were the Brythons, the men who later became known in history as the Ancient Britons. The late Canon Atkinson, in his delightful book, *Forty Years in a Moorland Parish*, thinks that the Britons had two bases or headquarters for their attack on Yorkshire. One of these he places at Eston Nab, a prominent rocky hill, near Middlesbrough, where an ancient camp has been excavated, and this he suggests was the base for their advance southwards across the Cleveland Moors ; their other base, he thinks, was the great headland of Flamborough. If he is correct in this view, we may have an explanation of the existence of the famous earthworks called Danes' Dyke, a great mound two and a half miles in length, and 18 feet high, with a deep ditch on its western side, which cuts off Flamborough Head from the rest of the East Riding. Some six or seven miles to the west, on the lower slopes of the wolds, is another long entrenchment, roughly parallel to Danes' Dyke, and known as Argam Dyke,



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DANES' DYKE

The southern termination of the great entrenchment that cuts off Flamborough Head from the mainland.

which may therefore have marked the second stage of the British advance to the north-west. Then again, across the Vale of Pickering, on the edge of the moors near Troutdale, we find the Scamridge Dykes, a wonderful series of parallel trenches, eight or ten in number, in each of which a man on horseback might easily ride unseen. Further north still, stretching across the dales within the valley of the Esk, there are other earthworks of a similar character, all apparently part of some great strategic scheme, planned by primitive man long ago.

It may be, of course, that these remains are of much more recent date ; some authorities, indeed, are inclined to attribute them to the Angles, who began to make their attacks on the Yorkshire coast during the later years of the Roman occupation. But whatever their origin may have been, they are among the most interesting historical monuments in our county.

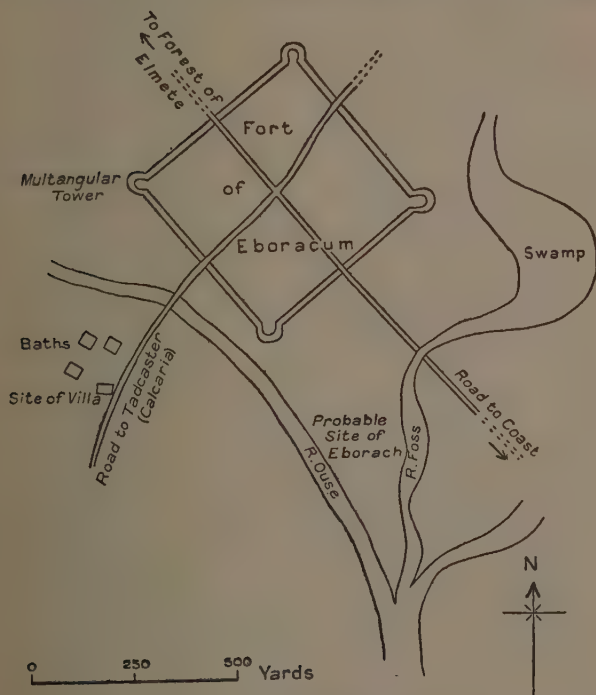
CHAPTER III

ROMAN YORKSHIRE

THE Romans made no attempt to subdue Yorkshire until about fifty years after the birth of Christ. A century earlier, however, Julius Caesar had conducted a campaign against the Gauls, who were a branch of the great Celtic race referred to in the last chapter. During the struggle, he found that the Gauls were receiving help from Britain, and it was partly with a view of preventing this that he undertook his two short expeditions in 55 and 54 B.C. But it was not until A.D. 43 that the Emperor Claudius sent four legions of troops to make a systematic conquest of the island. The middle part of Britain, east of the Severn and south of the Humber, was mostly subdued during the first three or four years of the Roman occupation, and the conquerors were then free to turn their attention about the year A.D. 50 to the wilder regions of the west and north.

Now at this time the whole of Yorkshire was under the sway of two British tribes. The smaller of these, the Parisii—who were probably related to the Gallic tribe from which Paris takes its name—occupied the low-lying, marshy land of Holderness, along the shores of Bridlington Bay. The rest of the county, and, indeed, the whole of northern Britain, was the home of the

Brigantes, the most warlike of the Britons. Their chief settlement in Yorkshire was at Isurium, so called from its situation on the Ure, near the spot where Borough-



PLAN OF ROMAN YORK

bridge now stands. It was in the midst of a great forest, the home of the wolf and the stag, that stretched from the Pennines to the Ouse. Here the Brigantes awaited the coming of the legions.

The Roman attack was carried out by a detachment

of the famous Ninth Legion, which was despatched from Lincoln (Lindum Colonia). Marching from the south along the ridge of high land that skirts the western edge of the Vale of York, they came to the Forest of Elmete, the name of which is still used in connection with the ancient villages of Barwick and Sherburn. Here they found themselves opposed by an elaborate system of earthworks which the Brigantes had constructed ; these entrenchments are known as Becca Banks, and may still be seen stretching for three miles along the northern bank of the Cock Beck, at Aberford, on the Great North Road.

It must have been a difficult and trying campaign ; but eventually the Brigantes had to admit defeat. A few years later the Ninth Legion, which had won renown in Spain, made York its headquarters, and henceforth that city was the chief military centre in Britain. In the Scottish rebellion of 116 the Ninth Legion was completely vanquished, and four years later the Emperor Hadrian came to York with the Sixth Legion, ' the Victorious,' which remained in the northern capital for nearly 300 years, until the Roman occupation of Britain came to an end.

York thus became a place of great importance, for it was not only the headquarters of a legion, but also the chief military station near Hadrian's Wall, the northern boundary of the Roman Empire. The actual fortress, in which the soldiers lived and worked, was on the left bank of the Ouse, where the Minster now stands. Like all Roman camps and cities, it was in the form of a square, with towers at the four corners. One of these, the Multangular Tower, may still be seen in the grounds of St. Mary's Abbey, near the

Museum, with its fine collections of Roman relics. The four walls of the city contained four gates, through



MULTANGULAR TOWER, YORK

The only remaining tower of the wall that surrounded the Roman fortress of *Eboracum*.

which four main roads entered York. The present gateways, known as Bootham and Monk Bars, represent two of the ancient entrances to *Eboracum*.

In spite of all these evidences of military strength, the Britons of the north, however, proved defiant. Towards the end of the third century rebellion again broke out in Yorkshire, so the Emperor Constantius came from Rome and took up his residence at York, and it is believed that his son, afterwards the great Emperor Constantine, was born here. Moreover, the Empress Helen, the mother of Constantine, seems to have given her name to three ancient churches in York, a former bridge at Holbeck in Leeds, a ford at Boston Spa, and wells at Bramhope, Thorpe Arch, Denton and Burnsall in Wharfedale. Two of the Roman Emperors died at York, namely Severus in 211 and Constantius in 306, whilst in 314 a Bishop of York attended the Council of Arles.

But no sooner had peace been finally restored within the borders of Yorkshire in the fourth century than a new danger presented itself, for hordes of heathen pirates began to plunder the shores of Britain. As a defence against them, the Romans appointed an officer known as the Count of the Saxon Shore, who was responsible for the protection of the coastline from the Wash to Southampton Water. North of this, along the coast of Durham and Yorkshire, signal stations were built.

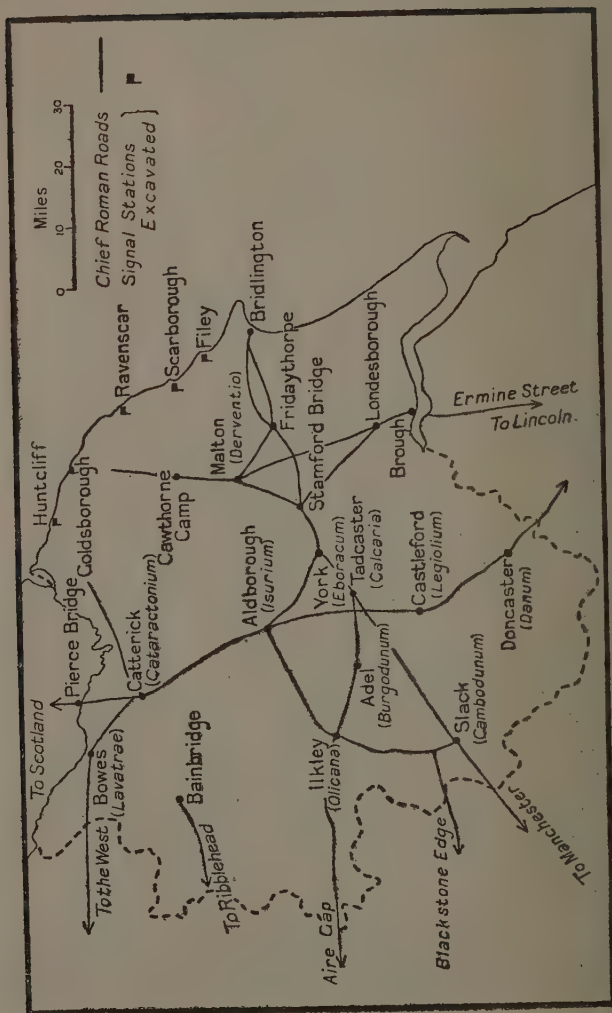
The coming of the English to Britain was really part of a great movement of Barbarians that threatened the centre of the Roman Empire as well as its northern confines. To guard against this danger the last Roman troops appear to have been withdrawn from Hadrian's Wall in 395, and after the year 410 the province of Britain was finally deserted. Thus the Romans held the country for a period roughly equal to

that which has elapsed since our ancestors defeated the Spanish Armada in the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

During their occupation of Britain the Romans left many memorials of their civilisation. We shall be able to follow their movements more intelligently if we can keep referring to the map. We will begin with their magnificent roads, which are still in use to-day. The Roman Road rested upon a firm foundation of three or four separate layers of stones, and, whenever possible, it proceeded straight as an arrow from one station to another. This was because on a straight road, without twistings and corners, there was not so much risk of ambush or surprise. We can realize how very straight a Roman road is if we ride along the twenty or thirty miles of Leeming Lane from Borough-bridge to Catterick Bridge, for this is the continuation of the great Ermine Street that led to the lonely strongholds near the Wall of Hadrian.

The Roman roads of Yorkshire are really in three sections, somewhat like the stem of a tree with its branches on either side. The trunk is the great highway just mentioned. It is usually known to-day as the Great North Road south of York, and as Leeming Lane north of York, but it is really an extension of Ermine Street. On the west are the branches that lead across the Pennines into Lancashire and Westmorland to join another great 'trunk' road there, and on the east are the branches that lead to the coast.

Ermine Street illustrates very clearly how the Roman engineers of 2,000 years ago, like the road makers of the twentieth century, had to overcome the natural difficulties of the countryside. From London to Lincoln



it came direct, but here it forked into two roads to avoid the marshes that lay between Doncaster (Danum) and the great estuary of the Humber. One of these roads, still called Ermine Street, went due north from Lincoln, crossed the Humber at Brough, and then followed the western edge of the Yorkshire wolds, through Market Weighton to York. The other road went west from Lincoln, crossed the Trent at Littleborough, and swerved around the western side of the marsh through Doncaster, Castleford, Ferrybridge, and Aberford, to join the other road at Aldborough (Isurium). At all these places Roman relics, such as altars and milestones, have been found.

The Romans constructed three great highways across the Pennines. The most northerly of these left the main road just north of Catterick, and crossed the limestone fells through Bowes to Kirkby Stephen. In the centre of the Pennine range there is a break known as the Skipton Gap, and through this they made another highway. This came from York, through Tadcaster (Calcaria) to Adel (Burgodunum) near Leeds. Then it kept along the crest of Otley Chevin to Ilkley (Olicana) in the valley of the Wharfe, and then across the moors to Ribchester over the Lancashire border. The third and most southerly of these western branches, also starting from York, passed through Slack (Cambodunum) near Huddersfield, and across the Pennines to Manchester, just as the London Midland and Scottish Railway does to-day. It is near this road, on Blackstone Edge, that we may still see a fine section of Roman paved causeway.

The eastern branches of the road system are more difficult to follow. Most of them were probably made

late in the period of Roman rule. From York as a centre they appear to radiate towards the signal stations on the coast, for York was the headquarters of an army corps, and the forty or fifty odd miles between that city and the sea could easily be covered by horsemen in case of need.

Malton also appears to have been a place of military importance, for, in 1927, a large Roman fort, covering a space of more than 11 acres, was excavated on the banks of the Derwent. In fact, after York itself, Malton seems to have been the chief station for the organisation of the Yorkshire coast defences. From here a much earlier Roman road, known as Wade's Causeway, after a legendary giant of the North York Moors, goes in the direction of Whitby, and traces of it may yet be found amongst the heather. On the line of this road, between Pickering and Lastingham, are the famous Cawthorne Camps, which date, some authorities think, from the first campaign of Agricola in the north.

The signal stations to which these moorland roads seem to have led appear to have been built just before the Romans left Britain, when the most terrible of her invaders were at hand. According to a Latin poet, Yorkshire was at this time :

‘Looking from her guarded shore on Saxon fleets,
Fast sailing landward down the veering wind.’

The Count of the Saxon Shore was only responsible for the defence of the east coast as far north as Skegness, whilst the seaward defences of Hadrian's Wall were at the mouth of the Tyne. Between these two points was a long stretch of over 100 miles of coastline to be protected, and to provide for this was the object of

the signal stations. Between the mouth of the Tees and Flamborough Head five of these have been definitely excavated upon the high cliffs at Huntcliff, Goldsborough, Ravenscar, Scarborough and Filey. South of this point, others may have disappeared beneath the waves that for centuries have swept the coast of Holderness. Roughly speaking, these signal stations are about ten miles apart, and the walls of the tower at Scarborough appear to have been 100 feet high.

At Huntcliff, near Saltburn, the spade has unearthed the foundations of a square camp over 100 feet long. Coins dating from the latter part of the fourth century have been found, while at the bottom of the well beside the tower were discovered the skeletons of defenders, who probably perished during a pirate raid.

At Ravenscar, overlooking the quaint little fisher-town of Robin Hood's Bay, a stone was discovered in 1774, which is now in the Whitby Museum. It bears the inscription, 'Justinianus, the Commander ; Vindicianus, prefect of soldiers, built this fort.' The date of the Ravenscar station appears to be about the end of the fourth century.

But the most interesting discoveries are undoubtedly those which have recently been made and preserved on the Castle Hill at Scarborough. Here, right on the very edge of the steep cliff, were found the remains of medieval buildings, including a Norman chapel, and beneath these the foundations of a Roman signal station.

There can be little doubt that the Romans had a very efficient system of signalling from these places, perhaps in the form of clouds of smoke by day and

fires by night. In this way warning of the approach of an invader could be speedily circulated, and word sent to the depots at Malton and York. It may even be that some of the beacons which occur on the map, such as the one at Seamer, near Scarborough, formed part of this wonderful system of communication nearly 2,000 years ago.

Of late years scholars have taught us that our land owes far more to the Romans than we used to think, for although their Empire has long since passed away, their ideals of law and order still form a priceless inheritance of the races they subdued and civilised. Moreover, some of their greatest works still survive in our own county, a source of delight to those of us who love to see and endeavour to understand them.

CHAPTER IV

ANGLIAN AND DANISH YORKSHIRE

THIS chapter, like the last, is a record of invasion and conquest. But the peoples with whom we have now to deal came to Britain, not as the Romans did, to extend an Empire they already possessed, but rather to make a new home for themselves. Thus their story is concerned, not so much with military expeditions, as with the wandering of races in search of fertile lands in which they might settle permanently. The English and the Northmen have consequently left a deeper impression on our national life and character than the Romans. ‘Saxon and Norman and Dane are we,’ sang the poet Tennyson, and in the making of England Yorkshire has played a prominent part. For even before the departure of the Legions in 410, new invaders came southward over Hadrian’s Wall and westward over the North Sea into Yorkshire. The fertile Plain of York was soon overrun by the Picts and Scots from the north, whilst the broad estuary of the Humber afforded an avenue of approach to the Angles, coming from the east.

Bede, the great historian of this period, gives a vivid picture of the invasion of these tall, fair-haired, blue-eyed English ancestors of ours. ‘Public as well as private structures were overturned ; the priests were

everywhere slain before the altars; the prelates and the people, without any respect of persons, were destroyed with fire and sword.'

Of the three great branches of the English race who came to Britain from northern Germany—the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes—it is with the first only which we are concerned in Yorkshire. In the year 547, the chieftain of one of these marauding bands, Ida, 'the Flame Bearer,' came ashore on Flamborough Head and worked his way northwards, establishing, with fire and sword, the kingdom of Northumbria that stretched away to the Forth. Soon afterwards, about A.D. 560, another barbarian, Ella, sailed up the Humber with a pirate host. He too pushed northwards, threatening the men of Ida. After a hard struggle he managed to detach from Ida's dominions the wide-spreading lands betwixt Humber and Tees, and this territory, corresponding to our modern county, became known as Deira. We may find on the map of Yorkshire, perhaps, a reminder of its old name in the words 'Derwent' and 'Driffield,' whilst the memory of its conqueror survives in the villages of Ellerby, Ellerker, Ellerton, and Elloughton—all close to the Humber. But the Romano-Britons, who, according to Bede, suffered so terribly at the hands of the invaders, made their last stand like their ancestors the Brigantes four centuries earlier, in the wild fastnesses of the Forest of Elmete. Here it was that Edwin, son of Ella, stormed the stronghold of their native prince, Cerdic. It has been thought that the earthworks at Barwick-in-Elmete, known as Wendle Hill and Hall Tower Hill, may have been raised during this struggle.



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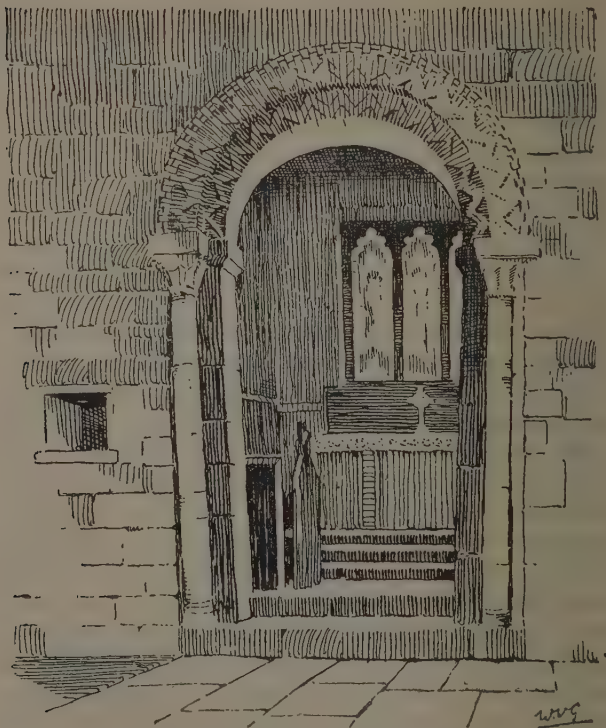
WHIRBY ABBEY

The Angles, however, did not advance far to the west, since they held the rich cornlands in the basin of the Ouse. It is an interesting fact that their burial mounds and the remains of Anglo-Saxon art and architecture that we possess are only found on the east side of the Great North Road.

When the Angles had become undisputed masters of Yorkshire a great change took place which had a profound effect upon their character. This was their conversion to Christianity, following the example of the later Romans. The Angles had worshipped the old heathen gods of the Baltic lands, such as Woden and Thor, and the teaching of the Gospel of Christ came to an end in Deira, until it was revived by Paulinus and his fellow-missionaries in the seventh century.

There is no need to tell the well-known story of Gregory and the children in the slave-market at Rome, but we must not forget that those fair-haired boys and girls, whose sad plight touched so deeply the heart of the young Roman priest, came from Deira. And it was only about thirty years after the landing of Augustine in Kent that Justus, the fourth Archbishop of Canterbury, consecrated one of his monks, Paulinus, as a bishop for missionary work amongst the heathen tribes beyond the Humber. It was to the court of Edwin, then ruler of Deira, that the missionaries came. Bede tells us of a famous temple of Woden and Thor that stood in Edwin's dominions, 'not far from York, to the eastward, beyond the River Derwent, now called Godmundingham.' This was the spot where the picturesque little hamlet of Goodmanham now nestles on the western edge of the Yorkshire Wolds, about a mile from Market Weighton, and here Coifi, high

priest of the heathen gods, showed the sincerity of his conversion to the new faith by being the first to destroy



CHANCEL ARCH, GOODMANHAM CHURCH

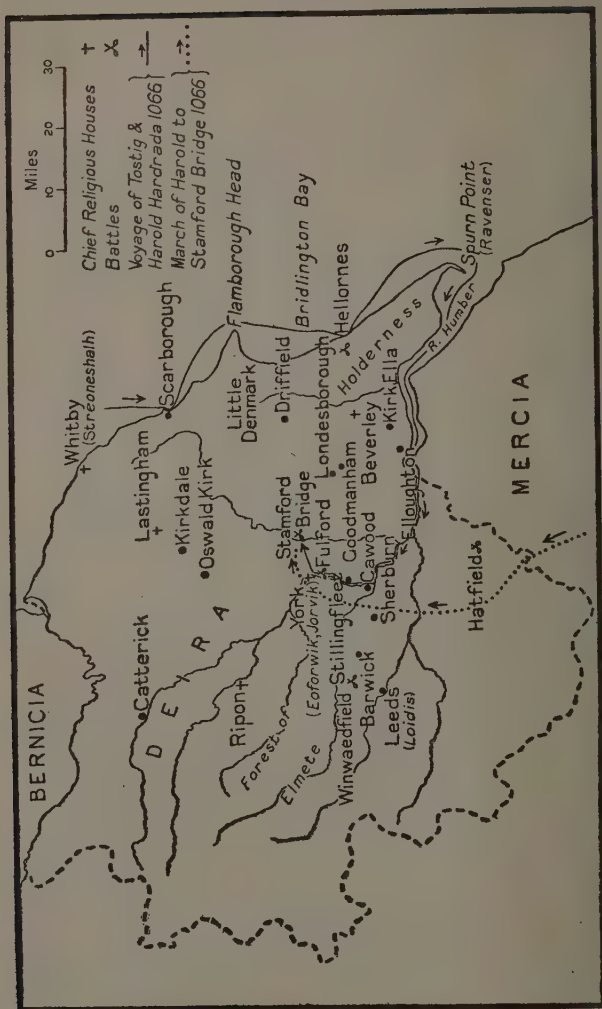
Here, according to tradition, stood a heathen temple in the days before the conversion of Edwin of Deira.

not only the idols, but also the very temple of the old religion.

Then, on Easter Day, 627, just over 1,300 years ago, Edwin himself was baptised in the old capital of northern Britain, the birthplace of Constantine. 'As soon as he was baptised,' says Bede, 'he took care, by the direction of the same Paulinus, to build in the same place a larger and nobler church of stone, in the midst whereof that same oratory which he had first erected should be enclosed.' This was the first York Minster, restored and filled with glass in 669, but destroyed in 1069, whilst the name of Paulinus is first on the long and honourable roll of Archbishops of the Northern Province.

The conversion of the king was soon followed by that of his people. Paulinus made many journeys over the moorlands and through the dales of Yorkshire on his mission of peace; we read of thousands being baptised in the Swale at Catterick, while memorial stones at Dewsbury and Pocklington mark the spots where he preached the gospel.

But in those days changes of religion often led to trouble. Penda, the ruler of Mercia south of the Humber and the Trent, declared himself the champion of the ancient beliefs, and made war on Edwin. The latter was slain in 633 at Hatfield, near Doncaster. He was succeeded on the throne of Northumbria by his nephew, the sainted Oswald—whose name survives in the village of Oswaldkirk, near Gilling, and in many a north-country church—and then by Oswald's brother, Oswy. It was Oswy who finally defeated Penda at the battle of Winwaedfield, which Bede tells us was 'in the country of Loidis.' 'Loidis,' of course, is the old name of Leeds, and there are good reasons for fixing the site of the battle which marked the final



triumph of Christianity in Yorkshire at Whinmoor, where there is an old well called Pen Well, perhaps after the vanquished king.

The battle of Winwaedfield had important consequences for religion in the north, for Oswy had vowed that, if victorious, he would build twelve monasteries in his kingdom. In fulfilment of this solemn promise he founded the first abbey at Whitby, or Streoneshalh, as it was then called. He chose as Abbess the Lady Hilda from Hartlepool, scholar, saint and stateswoman, and placed under her charge his little daughter Elfleda. It is to this young princess that Scott refers in his *Marmion*, when speaking of the nuns of Whitby.

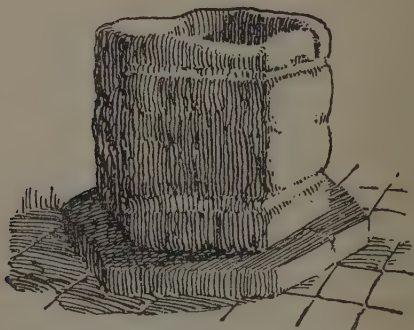
‘They told, how in their convent cell,
A Saxon princess once did dwell,
The lovely Edelfled.’

The body of King Edwin, slain at Hatfield, had been brought to Whitby by a monk, Trimma, and there buried, and this may account for Oswy’s choice of the site. At all events, the new monastery soon became the chief centre of learning and faith in Northumbria. Here dwelt Caedmon, the lowly ploughman who became the Father of English Song, and his beautiful memorial cross now stands at the top of the famous church steps, close by the spot where he lived and worked. Here, too, was held, in 664, the Synod of Whitby, at which was fixed the date of Easter as we still have it. No wonder that years afterwards this holy house became known as ‘the Westminster Abbey of the North.’

Within the last few years some interesting discoveries have been made at Whitby Abbey. The foundations of Hilda’s first monastery, which stood to the north of

the present abbey, have been excavated. We know now that it was a rude structure of wattle and daub, for pieces of the actual walls have been found beneath the turf, along with a fine collection of rings, brooches and other Anglo-Saxon ornaments, and some of the pillow stones from under the heads of the monks have been taken from the old burial ground and now rest in the British Museum and at Newcastle.

But Whitby was not the only centre of Christianity



SAXON FONT, GOODMANHAM CHURCH

in Anglian Yorkshire. At Ripon, the great churchman Wilfrid raised his minster in 669, and the Saxon crypt in which he was buried may still be seen by visitors to the old cathedral city. Beverley Minster, perhaps the loveliest of our Yorkshire churches, in all probability stands on the spot where the pious John of Beverley, pupil of Hilda, first founded a religious community in the latter part of the seventh century. On the edge of the north-eastern moors is the secluded village of Lastingham. Here, according to Bede,

‘among craggy and distant mountains,’ Bishop Cedd built a famous monastery in the days of King Ethelwald, and the little Norman crypt of the present church is one of the most deeply interesting spots in the North Riding. The churches of this part of the county, indeed, are very rich in Anglo-Saxon work. It has been calculated that, out of nearly 200 village churches in North Yorkshire, no less than a quarter contain carved Saxon stones. All this goes to prove how splendid must have been the revival of religion and scholarship that drew its inspiration from the saints and princes of the early Northumbrian Church.

And yet, no sooner had the Angles begun to develop a civilisation of their own than other pagan invaders came to overthrow it. These were the Northmen and the Danes. The former, who came from Norway and Sweden, reached Yorkshire by a long and indirect route, sailing down the west coast of Scotland and landing in Cumberland or on the shores of Morecambe Bay, whence they ultimately crossed the Pennines into the West Riding. It is with the Danes from Jutland and Denmark that we are more nearly concerned, however, for they overran the North and East Ridings and greatly affected the history of Yorkshire.

In the year 867, according to the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, ‘the heathen army went from East Anglia over the mouth of the Humber to York and there was immense slaughter of the Northumbrians.’ In the same year the monks of Whitby and the canons of Beverley were put to the sword by the Vikings. Across the North Sea they came, in their great ships propelled by many oars, the rowers protected on either side by lines of brightly coloured shields, whilst over-

head fluttered the huge sail, marked with an eagle, raven, or dragon. On the door of Stillingfleet Church, near York, there may be seen an ironwork figure of one of these dragon-prowed ships that came up the Ouse. Such terror did the Vikings strike into the hearts of the people of Deira, that the Church added a new petition to its Litany, 'From the fury of the Northmen, Good Lord deliver us.' And if the English succeeded in capturing a Dane, they flayed him alive and fastened his skin to the door of the village church as a gruesome warning to his fellows.

Still, year after year, with the return of spring, they came again, from the fiords of Norway and the dunes of Denmark, advancing each time a step further into Deira. They sailed far up the Yorkshire rivers ; it may be that the name Normanton is derived from that of a Northman who came up the Calder, whilst such names as Ravensthorpe and Heckmondwike in the valley of the same river seem to indicate Danish settlements.

It is the northern and eastern parts of Yorkshire, naturally, which reveal the most distinct traces of Danish influence. The low, sandy shores of Bridlington Bay, for instance, afforded a fine spot for beaching the Viking ships, and around here are scores of villages with names ending in *-by*, *-thorpe*, and *-wick*, where the invaders made their homes. The great promontory of Flamborough Head, cut off by the so-called Danes' Dyke, was long known as Little Denmark, and the villagers there sometimes still perform a sword dance which their ancestors learnt from Norse pirates. It is said that, even during the nineteenth century, Danish and Norwegian ships often used to call at Robin

Hood's Bay because the sailors could make themselves understood amongst the fisherfolk there. The 'Broad Yorkshire' dialects—for there are many of them—are largely made up of words of Danish origin, and there are many strange customs, now slowly dying out, that can be traced back to the heathen practices of the Northmen who settled in Yorkshire.

Yorkshire, in fact, soon became a purely Danish province. York, the 'Eoferwik' of the Angles, became the 'Jorvik' of the Danes, and a long line of Danish princes ruled there from 876. One of these was the chieftain Guthrum, who fought so strenuously against Alfred the Great that the Saxon king was at last forced to grant him and his people the northern half of his kingdom. His name still lives in the quaint old thoroughfare of Goodramgate. It was this wild Viking spirit which later made Yorkshire the principal centre of resistance to William the Conqueror, and it may even help to account for the determination and independence that are still characteristic of Yorkshiremen.

There were now two invading races in our island, and although English and Danes came from the same part of Europe and were closely related in blood and speech, there was a long and savage struggle for supremacy. The stories of Alfred and Canute are part of the wider history of England, but there are certain events in the contest that are closely connected with Yorkshire.

About thirty years after the death of Alfred the Great, when his grandson Athelstan was ruling in his stead, the Danes of Northumbria, in league with the Danes from Ireland and the Scots, rose in revolt

against him. The English king won so great a triumph at Brunanburh in 937 that for generations the name of the battle was remembered with awe. Where this fight actually took place has always been a matter of dispute. Places in Cheshire, Cumberland, Lancashire, Devon, Scotland, and South Yorkshire have all been suggested, as well as the villages of Bourne, Burnham and Brumby in Lincolnshire. But whichever suggestion may be correct, and the Scotch site of Birrens has much in its favour, there can be no doubt that Athelstan paid many visits to Yorkshire. It is said that before the battle he made a pilgrimage to the shrine of St. John at Beverley, and placed his dagger on the altar, as a pledge of the privileges he would grant to the church if victorious. This may be only a legend, but, curiously enough, when the nave of the Minster was being repaved in the eighteenth century, the relics of the saint were unearthed, and with them a dagger of the Anglo-Saxon period. Athelstan also made grants of land to the Archbishops of York at Otley, Cawood, and Sherburn-in-Elmete. Until the fourteenth century the Archbishop had a palace at Sherburn, known as King Athelstan's Palace.

In the time of Edgar the Peaceful we first hear of Yorkshire as a separate county. This came about when Archbishop Dunstan broke up the old kingdom of Northumbria, which had stretched from the Humber to the Forth, into three parts, one of which covered roughly the same area as our modern county. We do not find the actual name of 'Yorkshire,' however, until the days of Edward the Confessor, and then it occurs in its old form, 'Eoforwicscir.' The last part of the word means a portion of land 'shorn' or cut off

from the rest, and is the origin of our modern word 'shire.'

We now approach the time when the Normans, last of our historic invaders, descended upon our shores. These, however, were only Northmen or Danes who had settled in France 150 years before, just as other Northmen had settled in Yorkshire, and who now came to England across the Channel instead of over the North Sea. We are not concerned with the story of William the Conqueror, descendant of Rollo of Normandy, but with the part played by Yorkshire in the events leading to the Norman Conquest. In the year 1066 Harold, 'Last of the Saxons,' came to the throne of England. His brother Tostig, whose name appears on the famous Saxon sundial at Kirkdale Church, had been Earl of Northumbria, but had been deprived of his earldom. Filled with desire for revenge, he joined forces with Harold Hardrada, King of Norway, and came over the North Sea to regain his lands. Sailing down the Yorkshire coast, they appeared off the little fishing village of Scardeburg (Scarborough), nestling at the foot of its high Castle Hill. After setting fire to the place they rounded Flamborough Head and Spurn Point and entered the Humber and the Ouse.

The Northumbrian army awaited them at Fulford, now a suburb of York. Here Tostig and his ally won a great victory, and then occupied York. Harold of England now thought it was time to interfere. He marched along Ermine Street, and reached York only to find that his enemies had left the city and taken up a strong battle position on the left bank of the Derwent at Stamford Bridge seven miles away, almost at the very spot where the railway from York to Hull crosses

the river. The name of the place suggests that there had been an early paved ford across the stream, though from the details of the fight we gather there must have been a wooden bridge as well.

Here on Monday, September 25, 1066, was fought one of the decisive battles of English history. Its story has often been told, how the Norwegian king asked for terms, only to be promised seven feet of good Yorkshire earth, and how, in the words of the old chronicler, Henry of Huntingdon, 'the English crossed and slew Harold the King, and Tostig, and the whole army of the Norwegians they either laid low with their weapons, or took and burnt with fire.' It was a complete triumph for the lawful king, but it was short-lived. On October 1, only a week later, word came that William the Norman had landed at Hastings on the south coast, and Harold had to leave York in haste to meet him. Three weeks later the 'Last of the Saxons' lay dead on the field of Hastings, and Yorkshire entered upon a new era in its history.

CHAPTER V

NORMAN YORKSHIRE

THE coming of William the Conqueror meant much to the men of Yorkshire, who had no reason to think kindly of him, for they suffered severely at his hands. We to-day can see that his stern rule was really good and necessary, but to our forefathers in the eleventh century it was merely the tyranny of a ruthless despot.

And yet the Yorkshiremen of that day had only themselves to blame for the disasters that overtook them. They were the bitterest of the Conqueror's foes, and only submitted to the Norman yoke when their wide-spreading lands had been laid waste almost beyond recovery ; for the rebellions in Yorkshire were the most formidable William had to overcome, since the old Viking spirit still survived in the shire, and it only needed a little encouragement from the Danes across the North Sea or the Scots over the border for it to burst out in fierce revolt. This, indeed, is what happened on three separate occasions within as many years after the battle of Hastings.

The first two rebellions were put down with ease, though, as a result, William realised the need of keeping a firm hold on York, which was always the main centre of resistance. In order to do this, he built two

castles, but, as they were only made of wood, they did not long survive. The first was on the south bank of the river, and its site may still be seen on the wooded mound known as Baile Hill, just where the southern section of the city wall comes to an end at Skeldergate Bridge. The other fortress was on the north bank of the river, just opposite, and occupied a far better defensive position. It stood in the angle of land formed by the junction of the Ouse and its tributary the Foss, and the site could easily be made into an island by a connecting moat if need be. The first castle here was of wood, but in the reign of Henry II a stone keep was built. This still remains, and is called Clifford's Tower.

After appointing as Governor William Malet, a Norman noble who had provided one of the ships for the expedition of 1066, William left Yorkshire for the second time.

No sooner, however, was the king's back turned, as it were, than a third rebellion broke out. This was far more serious than the others, for the men of Yorkshire received help from overseas. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle says of the year 1069 : ' Soon after this came from Denmark three sons of king Svein, and Asbiorn jarl (earl) and Thorkell jarl, with two hundred and forty ships, into the Humber ; and there came to meet them Eadgar child and earl Waltheof, and Maerleswegen, and earl Gospatric, with the Northumbrians and all the country people, on horse and on foot, with a countless army, greatly rejoicing ; and so all unanimously went to York, and stormed and demolished the castle, and gained innumerable treasures therein, and slew there many hundred Frenchmen (*i.e.*, the Norman

garrison), and led many with them to the ships ; but before the shipmen came thither, the French had burnt the town, and also plundered and burnt the holy monastery of St. Peter.'

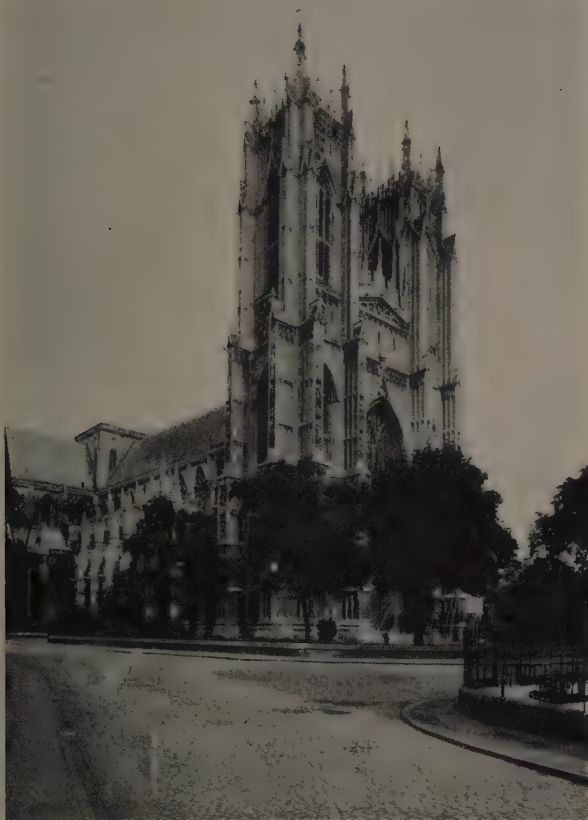
The king was in Gloucestershire when he heard this news. Losing no time, he again marched north along Ermine Street. But when he came to the low-lying lands around Castleford where the Aire and Calder join, he found all the countryside flooded for miles around, and the bridge, which carried the road over the Aire, in ruins. This catastrophe is thought to have given rise to the name Pontefract, which means the 'broken bridge,' and it may well be that, during his enforced wait of three weeks, the keen-eyed Conqueror realised the need for a strong castle on the high rock near by, which commanded the main route to the north. Crossing the stream at last, he led his troops along lonely bypaths by way of Tadcaster to York. Then began the most atrocious act of vengeance of which our history bears record. William determined to lay waste the whole land between Humber and Tees, so that if ever Scots came down again from the north, or Norsemen from the east, they would find nothing but wasted fields and ruined dwelling places. It was autumn, and harvest had been gathered into the barns of the farmsteads. But the crops were all taken or burnt, and the unhappy peasants who had not fled to the hills and dales of the west were mercilessly put to the sword. Those who did escape had to live on their horses and dogs, and some of them are said to have even resorted to cannibalism.

Domesday Book, compiled some sixteen or seventeen years later, gives an unforgettable picture of the state

of Yorkshire. Place after place is referred to simply as 'waste.' Here is the record of the little village of Bradford, for example : ' Ilbert has it, and it is waste. In the time of Edward the Confessor, it was worth £4.' In the East Riding more than 100 manors are stated to be ' waste,' whilst the value of most of the others had decreased greatly. One of the districts which escaped devastation was the land around Beverley, for the Conqueror feared the vengeance of the spirit of St. John. We are told that when a Norman knight, Toustain, attempted to enter the sanctuary of the saint, his horse fell down dead on the threshold, breaking the neck of its rider. William, in consequence, bestowed valuable gifts upon the minster and then led his men away. The Normans had so wasted the land that not for centuries did the county recover from the blow. But the men of Yorkshire learnt their lesson, and, until the Pilgrimage of Grace, which followed Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries, there was no great popular rising against the central government.

Domesday Book provides us with a wonderfully clear and accurate account of our county in Norman times. For as soon as William had subdued the land he proceeded to survey it. He wanted to know exactly what his new possession was worth and how much he might expect from his new subjects in the way of taxes. ' So very narrowly did he cause the survey to be made,' says the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, ' that there was not a single hide nor a rood of land, nor . . . was there an ox, or a cow, or a pig passed by, and that was not set down in the accounts.'

Commissioners were sent to the shires, with instructions to obtain information from the priest, the bailiff



By permission of Messrs. Walter Scott, Bradford.

BEVERLEY MINSTER

Here St. John of Beverley, who was born at Harpham and educated at Whitby, founded a monastery in A.D. 704.

and steward of manors, and six men from each town and village. The following extract, relating to some villages near Leeds, will serve to show how thoroughly they went about their work. 'The men of Barcheston (Barkston) Wapentake and Siraches (Skyrack) Wapentake offer testimony to Osbern de Arcis that Gulbert, his predecessor, had all Tornoure (Thorner), by whose gift they know not, that is, 4 manors of 8 carucates (about 1000 acres) of land.'

The information contained in Domesday Book about Yorkshire, or 'Eurvicescyre,' as it calls our county, is of great importance. In the first place, it records the names of many towns and villages, and although the spelling is peculiar, as in the above extract, it is a great help in trying to discover what these place-names mean. And if we can manage to do so, the map of Yorkshire becomes very much more interesting to study. Several examples of these names will be found in the Glossary.

Then, again, from Domesday we can get some idea of the number of people in the county in the eleventh century, long before our modern plan of taking a census every ten years had been thought of. From the details given in Domesday it has been calculated that the total population of Yorkshire only amounted to 6754. As a striking comparison, we may note that this figure was found to be exactly the population of the small mining township of Rothwell, between Leeds and Wakefield, in the first census of the twentieth century. It is very probable, however, that the Domesday figure represents families, in which case the actual population would be about 35,000. It must also be borne in mind that Yorkshire in Domesday contains a portion of

Cumberland, and the northern part of Lancashire, the entire total making up 8055 families, or 40,000 persons.

In order to get a clear picture of Norman Yorkshire, therefore, we must dismiss from our minds all thoughts of towns and factories and coal-mines. For Leeds and Sheffield, now the biggest cities in the county, were then only small villages. 'Ledes,' in fact, was only one amongst a number of hamlets mentioned, such as Hunslet, Armley and Bramley, that formed part of the great domain of Ilbert de Lacy, Lord of Pontefract. It contained twenty-seven villeins (*i.e.*, labourers bound to their lord), four freemen and four cottagers, who held between them fourteen ploughs, a priest, a church and a mill, with 10 acres of meadowland. The whole place was worth £7. 'Escafeld,' for this is one of the two earliest spellings of Sheffield recorded in Domesday, had only three ploughs valued.

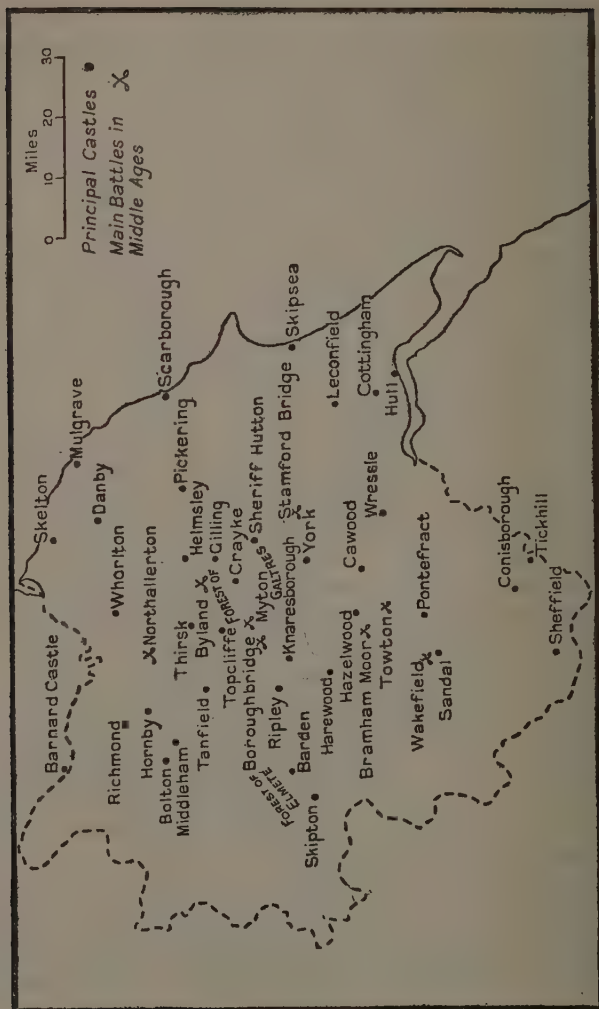
In Norman times York was probably the largest town in Yorkshire, though more burgesses are mentioned in Pontefract than elsewhere. It seems probable, too, that the greater part of the population of the county was clustered around York in the fertile valley of the Ouse. Even then, however, once the traveller got outside the north gate of the city, he found himself in the Forest of Galtres, which stretched away to the Hambleton and Cleveland Hills. We are reminded of this extensive woodland by the names of such villages as Sutton-in-the-Forest and Stockton-in-the-Forest, a few miles out of York. It is said that the beautiful lantern tower of All Saints' Church in the Pavement was originally lighted by a beacon when darkness fell to guide the wayfarer through the forest to the friendly shelter of the city walls. Then, to the west of York,

beyond the Roman road, lay the still more extensive Forest of Elmete, which covered the greater part of the West Riding between the central plain and the spurs of the Pennines ; while away to the east, towards the sea, was the unreclaimed swamp of Holderness.

Agriculture was naturally the one occupation of the people. It is an interesting fact that in the thirty-five folios dealing with Yorkshire in Domesday Book, there appears to be only one entry regarding any other industry. This is in connection with the village of Hessle, near Ackworth in the West Riding, where we are told there were six ironworkers, who were doubtless engaged in smelting the ironstone from the numerous outcrops in this district.

But the interests of Yorkshire in Norman times were also concerned with defence, and Domesday Book contains much information in regard to the barons whom the Conqueror made responsible for its government. There were over 300 tenants-in-chief and under-tenants in the county and outlying regions, some of whom are of great interest and importance. Such names as Percy, de Lacy, Mowbray and Mortimer call up vividly before our minds some of the most stirring deeds of the Middle Ages, in tournament and crusade. Their memory lives in the picturesque name of many a Yorkshire village, such as Bolton Percy, Allerton Mauleverer, and Acaster Malbis, and we may still look upon their knightly forms carved in the stone of many a country church.

William knew the nature of these turbulent vassals and decided not to give them too much power. In every shire, when he parcelled out the land, he always kept a good many manors for himself. There were



several of these royal estates in each of the Yorkshire Ridings, as well as others granted to the Archbishop of York and the Bishop of Durham, who, as churchmen, would not be likely to join in rebellion against the crown. One of the chief possessions of the latter was at Howden, near the junction of the Derwent and the Ouse, where the ruins of a palace of the Bishops of Durham adjoin the church.

The greater part of Yorkshire, however, was divided amongst the feudal lords who had come over with the Conqueror, and it is to them and their descendants that we owe the castles which are still one of the historic glories of our county. There appear to have been twenty-two castles in Yorkshire of earlier date than 1216. Some of these, like the castles of Tickhill and Conisborough near Doncaster, Pontefract, the great stronghold of the de Lacies, Sheriff-Hutton and Thirsk in the Vale of Mowbray, commanded the great central road through Yorkshire ; others, such as those at the entrances of the western dales, were a defence against the Scots, who often made their dreaded raids by way of the river valleys. Of this latter class were the castles of Richmond, Bolton, Middleham, Knaresborough and Skipton.

Most of these Norman castles were originally built on simple mounds, or ' mottes,' surrounded by a moat. Sometimes a moat was not necessary, as in the case of Scarborough, where the Castle Hill is only joined to the mainland by a narrow neck of land. In other cases, a moat was already provided by Nature, as at Skipsea, in the East Riding, where a famous castle, once known as ' the Key of Holderness,' but now completely vanished, was built on an island in the mere. These

castles are of great importance in the history of Yorkshire. At the time when they were built, in the



RICHMOND CASTLE

The Norman Keep was possibly begun by Alan Rufus, Earl of Bretagne, to whom the domain was given by William the Conqueror.

eleventh and twelfth centuries, the long period of invasion was at an end, for the Normans themselves are the last of our historic conquerors, and for many

centuries to come the struggle was to be between Englishmen themselves. It is obvious that in these conflicts the feudal stronghold would play a leading part. Even in the last of our civil wars, that between King and Parliament in Stuart times, much of the fighting in Yorkshire took place in the neighbourhood of these 'strong points' of the Middle Ages, and it was by order of Parliament that many of them were demolished after 1649.

It is impossible to tell of all the great baronial landowners of Norman Yorkshire, but some of the principal ones are of interest. Perhaps the most powerful was Alan the Red, Count of Brittany, William's second cousin and one of his chief supporters at the battle of Hastings. He was granted a large tract of land, comprising over 400 manors, in the north-western corner of the county, where a strong hand was needed to stay the marauding Scot. He and his descendants were responsible for the great Norman keep overlooking the Swale at Richmond—one of the most picturesque spots in Britain.

The eastern half of the North Riding, stretching from the sea at Whitby to the Vale of Pickering, was the estate of the Percies. The members of this great north-country family later became Dukes of Northumberland, and were often engaged in border warfare. They also had lands in the East Riding around Beverley, and the Percy Tomb in the Minster there is a magnificent example of medieval stonework. The rich cornlands between York and Northallerton are often known as the Vale of Mowbray, after the family to whom they were granted at the Conquest. The Mowbrays had a castle at Thirsk, but when Roger de

Mowbray rebelled against Henry II this was demolished, and not a stone remains to-day.

Another famous baronial family in the West Riding was that of the Romilles, whose castle at Skipton guarded the Pennine Gap and commanded the road to the west. In his poem on *The Force of Prayer*, Wordsworth recalls the old legend of how the fatal attempt of 'Young Romilly' to leap across the Strid led to the founding of Bolton Priory, in the lovely vale of the Wharfe. In the thirteenth century their lands passed to the Cliffords, who were among the leading supporters of the Lancastrian cause in the Wars of the Roses.

A great part of central and south Yorkshire was covered by the domain of the de Lacies, stretching from the Humber to the Irish Sea. Their chief stronghold was at Pontefract, 'the Key to Yorkshire.' This remained a place of military importance for centuries, and was the last castle in Yorkshire to hold out for King Charles in the Civil War.

The marshy land of Holderness between the Humber and the Wolds was bestowed on a Flemish knight, Drogo de Bevrere, who had married a relative of the Conqueror. When she mysteriously disappeared, however, 'Black Drogo' was suspected of murder and his estates were given to the Albemarles. It was a member of this family, nicknamed 'William the Fat,' who built the first castle at Scarborough.

In the south of the county lay 'that pleasant district of merry England which is watered by the River Don,' as Scott describes it in the opening sentence of *Ivanhoe*. Here the Warennes had their great feudal strongholds at Sandal and Conisborough. The latter, then known

as 'Conyngeburg,' possesses one of the few examples of a cylindrical keep in England.

We must not imagine that the men of whom we have been reading were warriors and nothing else, for we owe most of the beautiful abbeys, which are the peculiar pride of Yorkshiresmen, to their generous piety. They lived at a time when the people of Europe were filled with enthusiasm for their faith ; new orders of monks were being everywhere established, and it was the greatest ambition of many a Norman nobleman to found a monastery before his death. No part of England is richer in these memorials of a bygone day than Yorkshire.

The two great Benedictine Abbeys of Selby and Whitby date from this time. The former was richly endowed by the Conqueror as a thankoffering for his youngest son, afterwards Henry I, who was born there. The first Whitby Abbey, destroyed by the Danes before the Conquest, was now refounded on a grander scale as a Benedictine house by William de Percy. The lords of Richmond, too, built the Abbey of Easby, a mile or two below their castle on the banks of the Swale. Bolton Priory owes its origin to the Romilles of Skipton, whilst Kirkstall Abbey, though now blackened by the smoke and grime of Leeds, still bears witness to the munificence of the de Lacies of Pontefract.

Nor was it only the monks who were indebted to the Normans. Many a humble village church in Yorkshire is rich in Norman handiwork, whether it be some sturdy pillar, or richly carved doorway, or narrow window set deep in the thickness of the wall. In the West Riding we have Adel, Birkin, and Sherburn ; in

the East Riding, North Newbald, Kirkburn, and Garton-on-the-Wolds ; in the North Riding, Salton,



BIRKIN CHURCH

Showing Norman apse and chancel arch.

Lastingham, and Barton-le-Street ; and these are only a few typical ones. Nothing could show more clearly

the deep impression made on the county by its Norman masters than a careful collection of instances in which churches in the three Ridings contain Norman work of beauty and merit.

The Normans, indeed, did much for Yorkshire. By their stern discipline and firm rule they saved it from becoming a mere Danish province and made it an essential part of England. They brought it into touch with the art and learning of the continent from which they had come, and they left behind them monuments of their piety and skill that are among our most precious possessions.

CHAPTER VI

MEDIEVAL YORKSHIRE

THE Middle Ages are of particular interest with the coming of the Normans to England, though we are, perhaps, rather apt to idealise this period in our history. It is true that there is a certain romantic charm about it, but we must not forget that it was marred by many deeds of violence and cruelty, and of these Yorkshire had her share.

The first trouble was with the Scots, who coveted the fertile lands of the Yorkshire Plain. The Conqueror had doubtless foreseen danger in this direction when he granted to some of his strongest barons extensive estates in the north-west of the county. He also bestowed on the Bishops of Durham great domains, which he hoped would act as a protection against Scottish attacks. These lands extended as far south as the Vale of Mowbray, almost to the gates of York, and it is interesting to note that, as a result of this arrangement, the village of Crayke, only ten miles north of York, where the Prince-Bishops of Durham had a castle in the Middle Ages, remained part of the bishopric of Durham until 1844.

Some forty years after the death of William, however, when his grandchildren, Stephen and Matilda, were fighting for the crown, the Scots determined to take

advantage of England's weakness. Their king, David I, championed the cause of his niece, Matilda, and led an army into Yorkshire. Stephen was in the south at the time, but the Yorkshire barons, in response to the appeal of Archbishop Thurstan, armed their retainers and held up the Scots some three miles beyond Northallerton. Here, on August 22, 1138, was fought the Battle of the Standard, so called from the banners of the northern saints—St. Cuthbert of Durham, St. Wilfrid of Ripon, and St. John of Beverley—that were borne before the English host. The Scots were beaten and Yorkshire was saved. After the battle an English baron, Eustace FitzJohn, who had gone over to the enemy during the fight, founded the Priory of Watton, near Driffield, in expiation of his treachery.

A couple of centuries later the Scots again descended upon Yorkshire. This was after the English king, Edward II, had been defeated at Bannockburn in 1314. Mounted on their shaggy ponies, with a bag of oatmeal slung at the saddle-bow in order to make sure of a frugal meal when there were no English cattle to capture, the marauders made their way down the dales. The monks of Fountains and Bolton fled before them, whilst the terror-stricken peasants took refuge in the strong towers of their village churches, some of which, like that at Bedale, had been purposely protected by a portcullis. Edward was besieging Berwick at the time, and the burden of defending their homes again fell on the men of Yorkshire themselves. In 1319 a battle was fought at Myton-on-Swale. This was known as the 'Chapter of Myton,' from the 300 priests who took part in it under the leadership of Archbishop Melton and the abbots of Selby and St. Mary's, York. On

this occasion the invaders were victorious, and, after the battle, they ravaged the rich Plain of York as far south as Castleford, before working their way home again through the valley of the Aire.

Three years later, when Edward II was retreating from Scotland, closely pursued by Bruce, the Scots came upon the English troops at a lonely spot, afterwards known as Scots' Corner, near Byland Abbey. Edward's baggage and jewels fell into their hands, the king himself escaping only just in time to take refuge with the Augustinian canons at Bridlington. It is recorded that the Scots subsequently passed the winter in the West Riding at Morley.

After the death of Bruce, the Scottish attacks grew less frequent, for Edward III took measures to deal with any renewal of these incursions, ordering the burgesses of York to repair their fortifications, and it may be that the city walls, as we know them to-day, were to a great extent constructed during the time of the Scottish wars.

The next fighting in Yorkshire that we have to record took place among the Yorkshire barons themselves, in connection with the bitter quarrels over the succession to the crown in the later years of the fourteenth century. In Shakespeare's play of *Richard the Second*, the incident on which the plot turns is the banishment of Henry Bolingbroke, son of John of Gaunt. The latter, called by Shakespeare 'time-honoured Lancaster,' was the heir by marriage of the lands of the de Lacies of Pontefract. His name survives in John o' Gaunt's Hill, near Leeds, where, according to local tradition, the last wolf in England was killed. These lands, around the lower Aire and Calder, were seized by the young

king while their lawful owner was in exile, and this action gave Bolingbroke an opportunity to return to England. Crossing the North Sea while Richard was in Ireland, he landed, on July 4, 1399, on the spot where Spurn Point marks the entrance to the Humber. Here, where the flourishing seaport of Ravenspur had once stood, he came ashore, to find the spit of sand deserted, save for a solitary hermit, Matthew Danthorpe by name. On the place where he landed, there was, for many years, a stone cross to commemorate the event, but when the sea encroached still further, it was removed, and may now be seen in a garden in the market town of Hedon.

Bolingbroke was soon joined by many great Yorkshire noblemen, including the Percies of Leconfield and Wressle, and within a few months Richard was dethroned and his rival crowned as Henry IV. The fate of the deposed monarch is told in the old rhyme :

‘ The Kyng then sent Kyng Richard to Ledes,
There to be kept surely in privitee ;
From thence after to Pykering went he needis,
And to Knaresborough after led was he,
But to Pountefrete lest, where he did dee.’

The miserable little cell where Richard is traditionally supposed to have spent his last hours is still shown in Pontefract Castle.

But Henry IV, the first of the Lancastrians, was not to enjoy his new position in peace for long, for the Percies, becoming discontented, soon formed a plot to dethrone him. Amongst those persuaded to join was Richard Scrope, Archbishop of York, a member of an old Wensleydale family, long settled at Masham. Scrope had welcomed Henry on the latter's return to

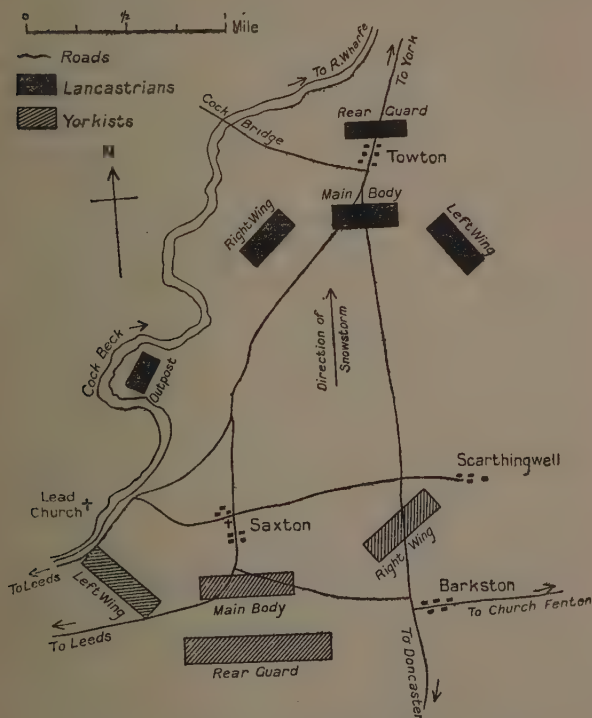
England a few years previously, but had since disagreed with the king's policy towards the Church. The plot, however, was quickly discovered, and the Archbishop tried for treason in the banqueting hall of his own palace at Bishopthorpe. Lord Chief Justice Gascoigne, whose tomb may be seen in Harewood Church, near Leeds, refused to sit in judgment on a prelate of the Church, but this did not deter the relentless monarch. Scrope was beheaded near Clementhorpe Priory in York, and buried in his cathedral. Three years later the revolt was finally crushed by the defeat of the Percies at Bramham Moor.

It was in the reign of Bolingbroke's grandson, Henry VI, that Yorkshiremen once again experienced the horrors of civil war. It is not necessary to enter into the causes of the Wars of the Roses, but we may note that many of the Yorkshire barons favoured the king and the Lancastrians, although Henry's chief opponent, Richard, Duke of York, boldly adopted the White Rose of York as the badge of his side. The king, as the heir of the Duke of Lancaster, held Pontefract Castle, and from here, in December, 1460, a detachment of Lancastrians attacked a body of Yorkists who were garrisoned at Sandal, near Wakefield. The Duke of York was slain, and his head was stuck by his foes on the top of Micklegate Bar at York, so that, as they jeeringly said :

‘ York may overlook the town of York.’

But fortune changed often during the Wars of the Roses. Within three or four months the Duke of York's son was crowned as Edward IV, and, marching north to avenge his father's death, he met the

main body of the Lancastrians on Towton Field, some three miles south of Tadcaster. Here, on the morning of Palm Sunday, 1461, as the bells of the



PLAN OF THE BATTLE OF TOWTON, MARCH 30, 1461

churches in the Vale of York were calling the villagers to mass, began the most bloodthirsty battle ever fought on English soil. A fierce snowstorm swept over the

countryside, full in the faces of the Lancastrians. For nine hours the battle raged, till the Cock Beck, flowing into the Wharfe at Tadcaster, ran red with some of the noblest blood in England. Victory rested with the White Rose of York. In the little village churchyard of Saxton, hard by the battlefield, may still be seen the moss-grown tomb of Lord Dacre who, along with thousands of brave knights, fell on that fatal day.

The rest of the story is soon told. After Towton, Edward IV was opposed by the powerful family of the Nevilles and had to flee to Burgundy. Returning in 1471, he landed at Ravenspur, just as Bolingbroke had done seventy years before, and defeated Warwick the Kingmaker, 'Last of the Barons' and head of the house of Neville, at Barnet. Warwick's lands in North Yorkshire passed to Edward's brother, Richard Crookback, and when the latter himself became king as Richard III, he spent much time at Middleham Castle. But he, too, did not wear the crown long, for in 1485 he was killed at Bosworth Field, the last battle of the Wars of the Roses, and with the accession of Henry VII, first of the Tudors, the Middle Ages in England came slowly to an end.

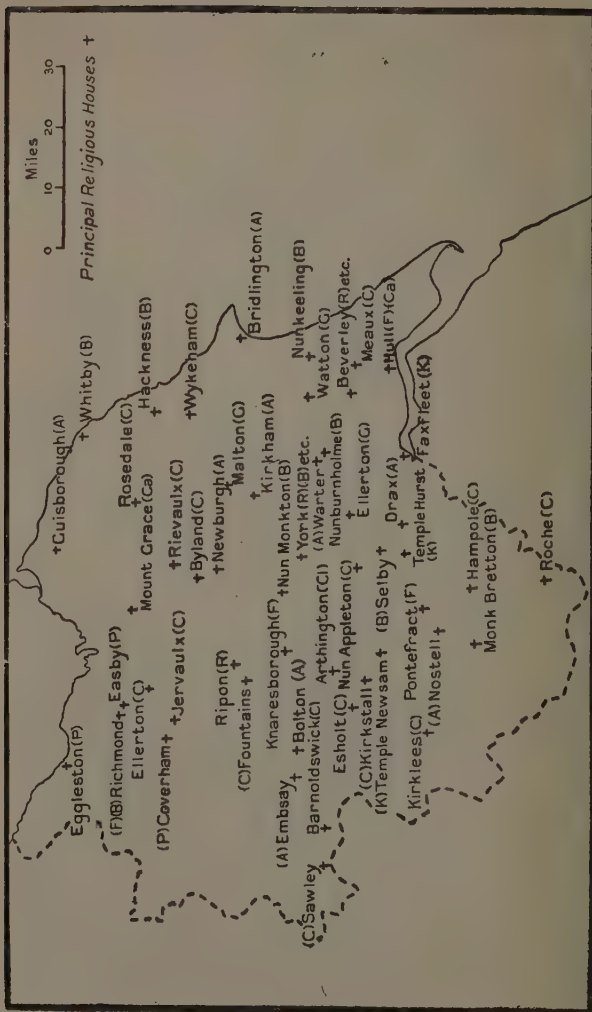
It is with a sense of relief that we turn from these scenes of strife and bloodshed to look at the brighter side of the Middle Ages. For while knights and barons were engaged in fruitless struggles, the good monks were quietly tilling their fields and tending their flocks, and the townsmen were busy with peaceful industry and commerce. It is in these directions that we must look for the real progress of the period.

In the first place, then, let us see what the Church of that day did for the men and women of medieval

Yorkshire. The power of this great organisation was immense, for practically everyone who possessed learning was connected with it in some way or another. The churchmen of the Middle Ages were divided into two main classes, called Seculars and Regulars. The former were the clergy as we understand the term to-day, bishops, rectors, vicars and curates ; they lived in the world and mixed with ordinary folk. The Regulars, or the monastic orders, on the other hand, comprised monks and nuns, who lived in communities apart from their fellows, following the threefold rule of poverty, chastity and obedience.

In attempting to get a clear picture of the religious organisation of Yorkshire in the Middle Ages, let us look first at the Seculars. As far as we know, England appears to have been divided into parishes in the century succeeding the coming of Augustine and Paulinus, but in the more isolated districts of the north, where means of communication were poor and many of the villages were far apart, there were not only fewer parish priests, but consequently larger parishes than in the south. A typical Yorkshire parish in the Middle Ages was that of Aysgarth in Wensleydale, supposed to be the most extensive in England. It is said to have covered an area of more than 80,000 acres, embracing the whole watershed of the Ure and stretching away across the fells to the borders of Westmorland.

The Norman Conquest led to an increase in the number of parish priests. Under the Feudal System, when every piece of land had its lord, the latter was naturally responsible to some extent for the spiritual welfare of his tenants, and the number of churches in the county increased. In many a Yorkshire village



YORKSHIRE RELIGIOUS HOUSES IN THE MIDDLE AGES

A—Augustinian, B—Benedictine, C—Cistercian, Ca—Carthusian, Cl—Cluniac, F—Friars, G—Gilbertine, P—Premonstratensian, R—Regular Canons, K—Knights Templars.

to-day the old church and manor house, standing side by side, remind us of the close connection that has existed for a thousand years between the lord of the manor and the parson of the parish.

Above the parish priests were the bishops and the Archbishop of York. The latter in 1352 received from the Pope the title of 'Primate of England,' the more exalted title of 'Primate of all England' being reserved for the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The three great Yorkshire minsters of York, Beverley and Ripon were not monasteries like those of Westminster and Chester, for their services were conducted by secular priests. In the fourteenth century there was a complaint that the clergy of York Minster were accustomed to walk about the streets dressed like laymen and wearing daggers, and that some of them were rather too fond of the wine-cup. In order to encourage them to lead a stricter life, therefore, two institutions were established where they might live together under supervision. One of these, the Bedern, has long since disappeared with the exception of the chapel, but the other still exists as a delightful old building under the shadow of the Minster, known as St. William's College, and is now used for clerical meetings and conferences.

Much more interesting, however, is the story of the monks of Yorkshire during the Middle Ages. The word 'monk,' unfortunately, is rather misleading, for it really means a person who lives quite alone, whereas the Regulars, by their very nature, dwelt in communities. The earliest monks, indeed, were hermits, and although the climate of Yorkshire did not encourage this kind of existence, there were a few hermits here even as late as the fourteenth century. One of them,

Matthew Danthorpe, of Ravenspur, has been already mentioned. Another was Adam de Laythorpe, who lived in a cave at Pontefract, which is still pointed out in the grounds of the hospital. A third was Richard Rolle. He was born at Thornton Dale, and after spending some time in seclusion at Topcliffe, he took up his abode at Hampole, near Doncaster, where he achieved fame as a poet and mystic.

But it is with the monks in their monasteries that we are chiefly concerned, and no county is richer in their memorials than Yorkshire. In the later Middle Ages, when the wealth and power of the Church were at their height, there were 200 or more religious houses in the county, and the ruins of many of the greater ones still survive, beautiful in their decay.

The earliest monks came to Yorkshire from Canterbury with Paulinus early in the seventh century. They belonged to the great Benedictine order which had been established in Italy 100 years before, and the rules drawn up for their guidance by St. Benedict formed the basis of all monastic life in the Middle Ages. The Benedictines had ten houses in the county, the chief ones being at Whitby, Selby and St. Mary's, York. Monk-Bretton Priory, near Barnsley, originally a Cluniac foundation, became Benedictine in the thirteenth century, just as Whitby, which had been a Celtic monastery in the days of St. Hilda, was refounded as a Benedictine abbey after the Conquest. Besides these houses, the order had several nunneries in Yorkshire, and the names Nunmonkton, Nunkeeling and Nunburnholme may remind us of the existence of some of them.

The next order to be introduced into Yorkshire was

the Augustinian, whose first priory was established at Nostell, near Wakefield, by Robert de Lacy in the reign of Henry I. Its members were also known as Black Canons, and were in some respects more like

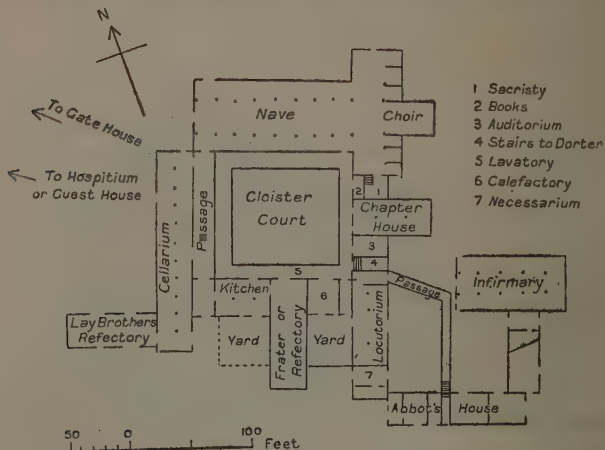


BOLTON PRIORY

Founded in the twelfth century as a house for Augustinian canons.
The picture shows the chancel and transept.

seculars than regulars. They were allowed to act as parish priests, and were thus not cut off from the world like ordinary monks. Their houses were known as priories, and the naves of their churches were generally used as the parish churches of the places where they

were situated ; even to-day, at Bridlington and Bolton, although little is left of the monastic buildings, services are still held in the naves of the old priory churches. On the other hand, the Augustinian priories at Guisborough and Kirkham suffered more severely at the Dissolution, and are now only picturesque ruins.



PLAN OF KIRSTALL ABBEY

By permission of the East Riding Antiquarian Society, taken from Vol. III. of their *Transactions*.

But Yorkshire was more especially the county of the Cistercians. They built the most stately abbeys in the most beautiful places. Whilst the Benedictines usually made their settlements near some centre of population, the Cistercians sought out some secluded spot, in the silence of the forest or by the banks of some quiet stream, far from the haunts of men. This is why the ruins of their homes at Fountains and Jervaulx,

Rievaulx and Byland, are among the beauty spots of England. The Cistercians were the Puritans of the Middle Ages. Their dress was of plain, undyed wool, and the fittings in their churches were of wood or iron rather than silver or gold. They had originated in Burgundy as a protest against the worldliness of the Benedictines, and when they settled in the northern dales they were still true to the ideals of their founder, Stephen Harding, and their greatest saint, Bernard of Clairvaux.

The Cistercians were introduced into Yorkshire by Walter Espec, lord of Helmsley. In 1131 he granted to a body of monks, who came from Clairvaux, some land in the beautiful valley of the Rye, at the foot of the Cleveland Moors. Here arose the Abbey of Rievaulx, the mother of many another Cistercian house, and its abbot was the head of his order in England.

The story of the origin of Fountains Abbey is one of heroism and sacrifice. In 1132, the prior and twelve monks of St. Mary's, York, feeling dissatisfied with the conduct of their abbey, obtained from Archbishop Thurstan leave to settle in a new home on the banks of the Skell, near Ripon. Here, we are told by the monkish historian, 'there was a leafy elm, a shelter for beasts in winter and summer, and beneath it these holy men took refuge, making their beds on the ground with straw and stubble ; beneath this tree all slept or fed together, a brotherhood poor, indeed, yet mighty in the Lord.' And here in time arose one of the fairest abbeys in the land, from which other Cistercian houses at Roche, Sawley, Meaux and Kirkstall originated.

Another order that sprang from the Benedictines was

the Carthusian. This order had only nine houses in England, two of them in Yorkshire, at Hull and Mount Grace, near Northallerton. The latter, founded in 1396, is particularly interesting. The Carthusian rule



FOUNTAINS ABBEY

Showing the tower, nave, and *cellarium* or store-room.

enjoined compulsory silence, the monks meeting only in church. Apart from this, they lived in complete seclusion, and at Mount Grace we may still see, around the cloister-garth, the remains of the little cells in which they dwelt, each with its own fireplace and

narrow staircase leading to the bedroom and oratory above.

Besides the various orders already mentioned, there were the Knights Templars and the Knights Hospitalers, originally founded for the protection and succour of pilgrims to the Holy Land. The Templars had ten houses or preceptories in Yorkshire, including Temple-Hurst, near Snaith, and Temple-Newsam, near Leeds. One of these is, in all probability, the spot described by Scott as 'Templestowe' in *Ivanhoe*. The Templars also possessed a good deal of land in Leeds, and a number of Templar crosses may still be seen on some of the old property around Lowerhead Row in that city.

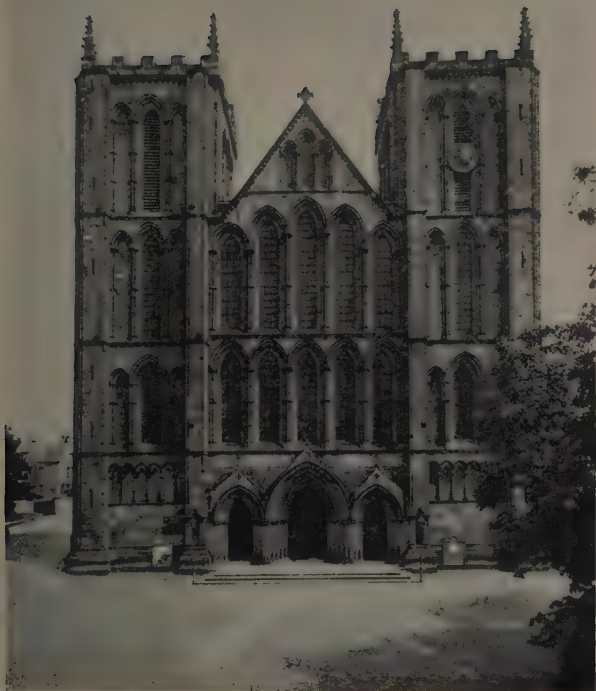
Then come the Friars, followers of St. Francis of Assisi and St. Dominic. Although forbidden by their founders to hold property, they eventually did so, and possessed twenty friaries in Yorkshire, five of them in York itself. The fine Perpendicular tower of the Grey Friars at Richmond reminds us of the Franciscan settlement there, whilst the street names of Whitefriargate and Blackfriargate in Hull mark the spots where the Carmelites and the Dominicans lived and worked.

Very similar to the friaries, which were established among the outcast and the poor, were the various hospitals in which Yorkshire was so rich. These were of many kinds. Some were maintained for the purpose of tending lepers, and were generally away from the other buildings in the town ; such was the Leper House, 'outside the North Bar' in Beverley. Others were established by some guild for the benefit of its members, like the Hospital of Trinity House in Hull, which was founded as 'an house of alms for mariners that be impotent and of no power of goods.' A third type of

hospital was the house of refuge for travellers, like the Rerecross Hospital, or the 'Spital on Stainmoor,' which gave shelter to the lonely wayfarer crossing the moors and fells into Westmorland.

We have seen already that the principal occupation of Yorkshire in the Middle Ages was agriculture. There were few towns, and even the cities, so called, were really more like great villages, for beyond their walls stretched the green pastures and the wide open fields, divided into strips, and when harvest time came round the weaver would leave his loom and the merchant his booth, to lend a hand in the gathering of the crops. And yet certain places were naturally more important than others, and to them we must give the name of towns. Let us see how they achieved this relative importance.

At a time when fighting played such a large part in men's lives, they would obviously cluster for protection around the strong castles, such as Richmond and Knaresborough, Scarborough and Pontefract, that guarded some high rock or commanded some important highway. In course of time these settlements grew up into towns. Similarly, the presence of a monastery would lead tradesmen to set up their shops and hold their markets outside its gates, to cater for the wants of pilgrims and others who journeyed to its shrines. This accounts for the growth of places like Selby, Bridlington, Whitby and Ripon. Some Yorkshire towns again seem to have owed their importance to their geographical position. Kingston-upon-Hull, for example, standing at the spot where the little River Hull—the only river in the East Riding—joins the Humber, seems to have been designed by Nature for a



By permission of Messrs. Walter Scott, Bradford.

RIPON MINSTER

The West Front is a typical example of thirteenth century Early English architecture.

great port. It is easy to see how York became a city of such standing in the Middle Ages. It not only commanded the main military road to the north, but also stood near the junction of many navigable rivers, and it was hallowed by the presence of a noble church, the central shrine of northern Christianity. No wonder that it ranked in importance next to London, and that, so late even as the reign of Richard II, it was the only other city to have a Lord Mayor.

The Norman Conquest had far-reaching effects upon town life in Yorkshire. On the one hand, it brought a great increase in trade, for commerce naturally sprang up between England and Normandy, and foreign trade was of importance to the towns, especially those near the coast. But Norman rule affected the towns in another way. Every place, great or small, came under the power of some lord, who burdened his tenants with all kinds of restrictions. The name of Mill Hill in Leeds, for instance, reminds us of the site of the lord's mill, where all the inhabitants of the manor had to grind their corn and pay toll and tithe. These restrictions were a grievance to the townsmen, who were beginning to have a sense of their own importance, and during the two or three centuries after the Conquest we find the Yorkshire boroughs making efforts to free themselves from their lord's control. They could only do this by obtaining a charter of liberties, the cost of which would be met from the taxes and tolls which came to them instead of to their lord. In 1207 the men of Leeds got their first charter from Maurice Paganel, the name of whose family survives in the names of Pannal and Hooton Pagnell.

These charters conferred valuable rights. Beverley's

charter from Archbishop Thurstan gave the burgesses power to make their own bye-laws in their 'hans-hus,' or town hall. Fines from the trial of criminals also went into the town-chest instead of the lord's coffers, whilst every borough wished to elect its own mayor and corporation. Another valuable privilege in these charters was the permission to hold a fair or market, for these brought trade and wealth. Rent came from stalls, and even if disturbances arose, as they usually did, the offenders could be tried in the rough court of local justice called the 'Pie Powder' Court, and fined for their wrong-doing.

The fairs of the Middle Ages were important gatherings. People did not travel far in those days, and so they had to depend on the annual fair for their supply of luxuries. The canons of Bridlington used to lay in their yearly stock of cloth, wine and groceries from St. Botolph's Fair at Boston. Famous Yorkshire fairs were the horse fair at Howden, granted by King John; the Leeds cloth fair, held on the bridge over the Aire; and the fair at Scarborough, when the townspeople were allowed by Henry III to buy and sell on the sands from August to Michaelmas.

Although medieval Yorkshire was chiefly engaged in farming, it is yet possible to trace the beginnings of those great industries that were later to become the staple trades of the county. Yorkshire ironstone, for example, appears to have been smelted by the Romans, though, after their departure, we hear little of the industry until the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Then we read of the monks of Fountains having forges on the banks of the Calder, the monks of Byland and Rievaulx engaged in smelting near Barnsley, and the

canons of Bridlington being given leave by one 'John de Walkingham' to dig iron ore and erect forges on the Wharfedale moors at Blubberhouses. The Cistercians had lead mines in Nidderdale Forest, and as the impure lead sulphide was the chief source of silver in the Middle Ages, this industry was of great importance. It is known also that there were lead merchants at Redmire and Leyburn in Wensleydale, who brought their products to the markets at York and Newcastle. Coal was not so necessary in those days, since the iron ore was smelted with wood, and wood was also burnt in the great open fireplaces of castles and manor-houses. Nevertheless, we hear of the canons of Bolton Priory in 1295 buying ten shillingworth of sea coal for their forge, and about the same time the out-crops of coal between Leeds and Pontefract—now the northern edge of the great South Yorkshire coalfield—were being worked. In the lists of freemen in the city of York in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries occur the names of glassworkers and potters, whilst the recent excavations in many of our Yorkshire abbeys prove that beautiful and artistic tiles were made by medieval craftsmen.

But, apart from agriculture, the principal Yorkshire industry of the Middle Ages was weaving. As the centre of the cloth trade was in Flanders, at this time the most thickly populated country in Europe, Flemish weavers were not unwilling to settle in other lands, where competition was less keen. Soon after the Conquest, therefore, we find them in Yorkshire, having probably been brought over by landowners who had estates in the Low Countries as well as here. Beverley was noted for its cloth in the reign of John; a street

there still bears the name of Fleming Gate, and there is a Flemings' Chapel in St. Mary's Church. We also hear of Flemish weavers at Hedon, Selby and Whitby. In the reign of Edward III their numbers increased, for the far-seeing king invited them to settle in his realm to teach his subjects the art of cloth-making. Some of them now began to make their homes in the West Riding, at Leeds, Ripon, Knaresborough and Skipton, thus founding the great industry on which the prosperity of that district so largely depends to-day. In 1299 York had a mayor called Jacob le Flemyng, so that some of the immigrants evidently became worthy citizens in the land of their adoption.

Yet, in spite of all these developments, the great bulk of our Yorkshire wool still went overseas to be made up into cloth. The Cistercians were the chief sheep-farmers of the county in the Middle Ages. The limestone fells beyond Fountains and the moors that stretched from Rievaulx to the sea produced some of the finest wool in Europe. As smuggling was rife, this had to be exported from certain fixed places known as staple-ports, such as York and Hull. Here the sacks of wool were weighed and stamped with the seal of a royal official, the mayor of the staple, and here the export duty was paid, at times amounting to 6s. 8d. on each sack. This brought in a considerable revenue to the crown ; in fact, it was largely the wealth derived from wool that enabled England to stand the long financial strain of the Hundred Years' War, and of this Yorkshire contributed a very large share.

In the Middle Ages no man could engage in trade unless he belonged to one of the Merchant or Craft Gilds which played such a great part in medieval

England. Business men believed in keeping a strict eye on one another, and this could be done more easily when all the members of one trade belonged to the same gild, and had their shops as close together as possible. Such streets as Ropergate in Pontefract and the Shambles in York remind us of the settlements of the ropemakers and the butchers in those medieval towns. York was particularly rich in gilds, of which there were thirty in all, the principal one being the Merchant Adventurers, a branch of the Mercers' Company, whose delightful old hall in Fossgate, with its fifteenth-century screen and little chapel, still exists. Beverley had no less than thirty-eight, including the Minstrels' Gild, the members of which restored the tower of St. Mary's when it collapsed in 1520 ; we may still see on one of the pillars there the inscription, 'Thys Pyllar made the Meynstrels.' The Shipman's Gild at Hull eventually developed into the body now known as Trinity House, which controls our lighthouses. In Leeds, too, there was the Jesu Gild, with its altar in the old parish church. Like everything else in the Middle Ages, these institutions were closely bound up with the Church. They had their chaplains who said masses for the souls of their departed members, and many of the most beautiful features in our parish churches are the outcome of their piety and generosity.

But the time was soon to come when the gilds of the Middle Ages, like the monasteries, would arouse the cupidity of strong kings and unscrupulous nobles. It was the Reformation that sealed their fate, and with the outbreak of that great movement Yorkshire began to feel the force of influences which deeply affected her subsequent history.

CHAPTER VII

TUDOR YORKSHIRE

THE accession of Henry Tudor, upon the defeat of his rival in the battle of Bosworth Field, marks the start of a brief period of comparative quiet in the history of Yorkshire. Its inhabitants, like most other Englishmen, were only too glad to see the end of the Wars of the Roses, and their relations with the first of the Tudor sovereigns were no less friendly than they had been with his predecessor.

In the spring of 1486, after his marriage with Elizabeth of York, Henry VII made a triumphal progress through the northern part of his new kingdom. The citizens of York gave him a warm welcome ; flowers were strewn in the streets of the old city, the wine flowed freely, and the celebrations concluded with a pageant entitled 'The Union of the Royal Roses.' But Henry, with the characteristic shrewdness of his race, did not fail to take precautions against a possible outburst of disloyalty, and removed Richard III's nephew, the young Earl of Warwick, who might prove a dangerous rival, from Sheriff-Hutton Castle to the safe keeping of the Tower. His foresight was soon justified. Not many months later, an impostor came forward in the person of Lambert Simnel, who claimed to be the same Warwick, escaped

from the Tower. In 1487, a body of Simnel's followers, having crossed the Pennines from Lancashire, appeared before Bootham Bar, through which the road from the west entered York. The citizens, however, showed no intention of deserting the king whom they had so recently honoured; the rebels were easily repulsed, and the Lord Mayor was shortly afterwards knighted for his loyalty.

A few years later York received another Tudor visitor. This was the young Princess Margaret, who was on her way to Scotland to meet her husband, James IV. Attended by a gallant company of noblemen she came from Tadcaster and was awaited at Micklegate Bar by the corporation and leading citizens. Little did she dream that when next she entered the city she would be a widow, after the battle of Flodden, 'where shivered was fair Scotland's spear.'

Henry VII, however, soon found himself confronted with the difficult task of controlling the nobles. Despite the weakening of the barons by the Wars of the Roses, their power was still great, especially in the north, as may be seen, for example, in the case of Henry Algernon Percy, fifth Earl of Northumberland, whose Yorkshire seats were at Wressle, near Howden, and Leconfield, near Beverley. We possess, in his famous *Household Book*, dating from 1512, a historical document of great interest, which gives a vivid picture of social life in early Tudor England. We read of over 200 persons being fed daily in his hall, while amongst the wonderfully detailed accounts of the amount of food consumed occur the names of no less than thirty different kinds of birds. In the days when Scottish attacks had been frequent and formidable,

such crowds of retainers were necessary to form the nucleus of a northern army. But such days were fast drawing to a close. The old border raids were now infrequent, and in consequence many lords preferred the comfort of the manor-house to the security of the castle. Hence large bodies of armed servants, fed and clothed at their lord's expense, were liable to become a source of trouble to the crown rather than of safety to the nation, as the experience of the Wars of the Roses had shown. In order to deal with this question, Henry VII created the Court of Star Chamber, and his son established the Council of the North, of which we shall read later.

The story of Yorkshire in the reign of Henry VIII, however, is largely bound up with the fortunes of the Reformation, but before considering this we must just glance at the career of one who is perhaps the most famous of our archbishops, Thomas Wolsey, Cardinal of York. His two immediate predecessors, Archbishops Savage and Bainbridge, had only visited their diocese on rare occasions, and it was not until 1530, after he had lost the favour of the king, that Wolsey himself came into Yorkshire, although he had been archbishop for sixteen years. He was warmly welcomed by the people of his province, and on his journey north he held confirmations at Nostell and Ferrybridge, crowds flocking around to receive his blessing. He took up his residence at Cawood, near Selby, where the Archbishops of York had had a manor since the tenth century. A farmhouse now stands on the spot, though the fine gateway of the palace may still be seen, adorned with the coat of arms and the cardinal's hat of its builder, Archbishop Kemp. Here Wolsey spent



W. G. G. G.

THE GATEWAY, CAWOOD CASTLE

Erected in the reign of Henry VI by Archbishops Bowet and Kemp.

a month, dispensing a lavish hospitality and keeping 300 men at work rebuilding his new home. But he was destined never to see his cathedral city. Three days before the date fixed for his installation in the Minster he was arrested in the banqueting hall at Cawood by the Earl of Northumberland. He was taken south to await his trial, but, after a short rest on the way at Sheffield, he fell ill at Leicester, where he died three weeks later.

The death of Wolsey was soon followed by the king's attack on the monasteries. Into the question of the justice of this momentous act we cannot enter, for it is one of the most disputed subjects in our history. But, in view of the charges of slothfulness and ignorance that were brought against the clergy of the time, it is worth noting that an investigation made by Archbishop Lee in 1537 revealed the fact that there were only twelve priests in the diocese of York who were able and willing to preach. A hundred years before, John Wyclif, a Yorkshireman, born near Richmond, had sent forth his 'poor priests' to preach to the people in a language they could understand. We do not hear much of the activities of the Lollards in our county, though there must have been men and women here, even before the Reformation, who were beginning to have their doubts about the teachings of the Church. In the early years of Henry VIII's reign, for example, it is recorded that one Roger Gargrave, of Wakefield, on being accused of heresy before the Chancellor of York, confessed that 'if a calf were upon the altar, I would rather worship that than the holy sacrament.'

But whatever may have been the abuses in the Church at large, there can be no doubt that the men

whom Thomas Cromwell sent to inquire into the conduct of the Yorkshire monasteries performed their task with undue haste. One of them, Layton, who afterwards became Dean of York, wrote to his master from that city, 'This day we begin with St. Mary's Abbey, whereat we suppose to find much evil disposition, both in the abbot and the convent.' It was not difficult for them to discover causes of complaint against the monks and nuns, and as a result, in 1536 orders were issued that all monasteries with an income of less than £200 a year were to be dissolved. There were fifty-three of these 'smaller' houses in Yorkshire, and all had to submit to the royal decree.

The men of the north did not accept the dissolution without protest. The Yorkshire abbeys, especially those in the western dales, had provided food and rest for many a weary traveller, and the thought of their wealth, the gift of generations of pious benefactors, being seized by grasping courtiers helped to foment the rebellion known as the Pilgrimage of Grace. This broke out at Louth in Lincolnshire, in October, 1536, and soon spread across the Humber. The chief leader of the revolt in Yorkshire was Robert Aske, a lawyer, who belonged to a North Riding family that had settled at Aughton-on-Derwent, some six or seven miles east of Selby. The farmers of the marshlands in this part of the county and the shepherds of Wensleydale were equally enthusiastic, and they were joined by members of the old Yorkshire families of Percy, Scrope, and Neville. The leaders took as their badge a banner bearing the five wounds of Christ, surmounted by the crown of thorns, for they regarded their movement as a religious crusade. Some of the Yorkshire castles,

such as Pontefract, Skipton and Scarborough, withstood their assaults, though when Aske marched across the wolds from Market Weighton and appeared before the walls of York, the citizens gladly opened their gates to the insurgents. Meanwhile, the Government had not been idle. The Duke of Norfolk, with an army of 8,000 men, was despatched to the north, and held a parley with the rebel leaders on the bridge at Doncaster. When he conveyed the king's promise of a free pardon and a parliament at York to discuss their grievances, Aske endeavoured to persuade his followers to lay down their arms. But they were unwilling to desert their cause, and their reluctance caused the royal vengeance to be swiftly and surely exercised. The haughtiest of the Tudors could not brook defiance, and those who had led the revolt suffered the penalty of treason. Sir Robert Constable of Flamborough, was hanged at Hull 'above the highest gate of the town, so trimmed in chains that I think his bones will hang there this hundred years,' wrote Norfolk to the king. Lord Darcy met a similar fate in London, his estates at Temple Newsam, near Leeds, being granted to the Earl of Lennox. Nor did Henry show any mercy to the churchmen who had taken part in the Pilgrimage of Grace. The Abbots of Fountains and Jervaulx, the ex-Abbot of Rievaulx, the Prior of Bridlington, and the ex-Prior of Guisborough—all died on the scaffold, and were regarded as martyrs for the faith of their fathers.

Then came the suppression of the larger Yorkshire monasteries. The monks and nuns were turned adrift, some of them with small pensions, but mostly dependent upon charity. The lead on the roofs of the monastic churches and domestic buildings was particularly

coveted by the king and his ministers ; the Duke of Norfolk, for instance, wrote to Cromwell, asking that plumbers might be sent to Bridlington to melt down the lead, which was valued at £3,000 or £4,000, in order to pay the debt of £200 that the priory had incurred. Once the lead had been stripped off, the weather and the demands of neighbouring householders for stone soon completed the destruction. A bridge over the Aire at Leeds was largely constructed from the stones of Kirkstall Abbey, and the abbot's house at Fountains was demolished to build Fountains Hall, a fine Tudor mansion near by. The monastic lands, rich in flocks and herds, were granted to wealthy landowners and rich woollen merchants, who thus formed a new landed aristocracy, loyal to the crown that had enriched them, and not likely to indulge in insurrection, like the Yorkshire barons of an earlier day. The estates of Whitby Abbey were purchased for £300 by Sir Richard Cholmley of Roxby, near Thornton-Dale, whose descendants erected the Abbey House and placed the quaint old Jacobean family pew in the Parish Church. One proposal, indeed, was made which would have benefited the whole community if it had been carried out. This was to divide the extensive see of York so as to make the north-west portion of the county into a new diocese, with Fountains Abbey as its cathedral. The scheme was only revived three centuries later on the formation of the diocese of Ripon.

Thus the abbeys, which had been the peculiar glory of Yorkshire in the Middle Ages, were left bare and roofless. So complete had been the spoliation that there was little fear of any attempt to restore them.

Yet Henry was not prepared to leave anything to chance, for the Pilgrimage of Grace had proved the devotion of his subjects in the north to the old religion. As the Abbot of York had said in a letter to Cromwell, 'There be such a company of wilful gentlemen within Yorkshire as there be not in all England besides.' So the king set up the Council of the North, with functions similar to those of the Star Chamber in London, to maintain order in the lands beyond the Humber. It was a sign of the great change wrought at the Reformation, that the house of the Abbot of St. Mary's, standing outside Bootham Bar, now became the King's Manor House, and the residence of the President of the Council of the North ; it is to-day the York School for the Blind. One of the earliest Presidents was Archbishop Holgate, who is still remembered by the Grammar Schools which he founded at York, Old Malton, and Barnsley. The Council of the North had extensive powers, and could punish its victims by fines and imprisonment, as well as the more rigorous penalties of the pillory and mutilation. In course of time it became as hateful to the people as the Star Chamber, and eventually suffered the same fate. But while it lasted it did much to keep the peace in the north of England and to discourage rebellion against the crown.

When another rising took place, in the reign of Elizabeth, it was not nearly so formidable, at any rate in Yorkshire, as the Pilgrimage of Grace. The Rising of the North was an attempt on the part of the old Catholic nobility to undo the Reformation by deposing Elizabeth and placing Mary Queen of Scots on the English throne. Mary was a prisoner in Staffordshire

at the time ; she had been moved south from Bolton Castle in Wensleydale. The Government appears to have suspected the loyalty of Lord Scrope, who had been her keeper at Bolton. On one occasion, indeed, Mary had nearly succeeded in escaping, and the ravine, known as the Queen's Gap, where she was recaptured, is still pointed out on Leyburn Shawl. Moreover, in spite of the harsh measures of Henry VIII, some of the oldest and most influential families in the county were still Catholic, but as long as they were not concerned in plots fomented by Philip of Spain Elizabeth did not interfere with them. The Vavasours, for example, of Hazlewood Castle, near Tadcaster, are said to have been allowed to attend mass in their own private chapel throughout the whole of her reign.

But in the autumn of 1569 the state of affairs seemed threatening. It was rumoured that some of the principal Yorkshire Catholics had held a secret meeting at Topcliffe to discuss their plans, and shortly afterwards news reached London that the Earls of Northumberland and Westmorland had raised the standard of revolt beyond the Tees. After taking possession of Durham Cathedral, where they demolished the wooden communion tables and set up again the old stone altars, they marched south through Tadcaster and Wetherby, calling on the men of Yorkshire to join them. But they did not meet with a very ready response, and the rising in Yorkshire never became really serious, although some 500 of the insurgents were executed, Northumberland himself being beheaded on August 22, 1572, on a scaffold erected on the Pavement at York.

Thus ended the last attempt to undo the work of the Reformation in Yorkshire. Although there are still isolated places in the county, such as some of the moorland villages in Eskdale, where the old faith has maintained its hold almost unimpaired, the mass of the people were either afraid or unwilling to take up arms again on its behalf.

Now let us turn from this record of rebellion and revenge, to look at the part played by Yorkshire in that wonderful Renaissance, or Revival of Learning, that did so much to change Medieval England into the England we know to-day. For it was during the Tudor period that there occurred one of those great advances in culture and civilisation that are the real landmarks in the history of mankind. As far as England is concerned, the movement is said to date from the reign of Edward IV, when Caxton set up his printing press at Westminster. It is interesting to note that in 1509, only twenty-five years later, the first printing press in Yorkshire was erected by Hugo Goes in the Minster Yard at York. The introduction of printing proved a great stimulus to education, for it was now possible to obtain many copies of a book, instead of only a few copied laboriously by the hand of some monkish scribe. Hence the period of the Renaissance witnessed the foundation of numerous colleges and schools, where the new learning, based on the literatures of Greece and Rome, might be fostered. Many of these institutions were in Yorkshire, whilst others elsewhere owed their origin to Yorkshiremen. Two Cambridge colleges, for example, are intimately connected with the county. Jesus College was founded by John Alcock, Bishop of Ely and Chancellor of England, who was born at Hull

in the early fifteenth century, and who also founded the Grammar School in that city. John Fisher, Bishop of Rochester, who suffered death along with Sir Thomas More during the Reformation, was the son of a Beverley draper, and is said to have assisted Lady Margaret Beaufort in her foundation of St. John's College at Cambridge. Moreover, Sir Henry Savile, Provost of Eton, who founded professorships at Oxford, was born near Halifax in 1549. The village of Kirby Wiske, near Thirsk, was the birthplace of one of the great scholars of the Renaissance, Roger Ascham, tutor to Queen Elizabeth. Miles Coverdale, translator of the Bible in the reign of Henry VIII, belonged to a family that took its name from the valley of the little river Cover, which joins the Ure near Middleham.

Most of the old Yorkshire Grammar Schools date from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and their existence is clearly due to the Renaissance. Some of them, indeed, such as St. Peter's at York and the Grammar School at Beverley, are far older, and rank amongst the earliest educational foundations in England. Many of them started as choir schools in connection with churches. When Bishop Alcock founded Hull Grammar School it was stipulated that the incumbent of Holy Trinity Church should pay 40s. to a clerk to teach children to sing, and half a mark to each of the ten best scholars. The famous public schools of Sedbergh and Giggleswick, both finely situated on the Pennines, began their careers as schools attached to chantries, the priests of which acted as schoolmasters. Sedbergh was founded in the early sixteenth century by Roger Lupton, Provost of Eton, whilst in 1507 the Prior and Convent of Durham

granted half an acre of land on their estates at Giggleswick for the building of 'one grammer scole.' The work of these schools was taken in hand seriously, as is shown by one of the regulations of Archbishop Holgate's Grammar School at York, founded in 1546; this is to the effect that the school hours should be from six o'clock to eleven in the morning and from one to six in the afternoon—making altogether ten hours a day!

But whilst the Tudor Period was the age of the Reformation and the Renaissance, it was also the age of adventure, and the tales of its explorers are amongst the most thrilling in our history. In these annals of adventure Yorkshire has her share. Perhaps the most famous name is that of Martin Frobisher, who was born at Altofts, near Wakefield, and whose three voyages into the Arctic Ocean led to the discovery of Hudson's Bay and Straits. Another interesting personality is William Strickland, who took part in the expedition of Cabot to Newfoundland. His family came originally from Marske, in the North Riding, but as he purchased an estate at Boynton, near Bridlington, it is here, in the village church, that the figure of a turkey on the family crest may be seen, a reminder that William Strickland, 'the Navigator,' is supposed to have introduced that bird into this country.

When the great deeds of such men as these on the Spanish Main eventually drove Philip of Spain to despatch the Armada, the men of Yorkshire rallied to the defence of their Queen and realm. The chief towns, York, Hull, Scarborough, Leeds, Wakefield and Halifax, contributed towards the fitting out of ships to meet the invader, whilst the people themselves prepared

to defend their homes in the event of a Spanish landing. In May, 1588, the month in which the Armada set sail from Lisbon, 300 men from the scattered farmsteads of Ryedale gathered under Sir William Fairfax, ready to march to the coast. The wealthier gentlemen of the county had to provide at least one horseman, fully equipped, to swell the ranks of the defenders. Fortunately their services were not required. When the ships of Spain were at last sighted off the Yorkshire coast, they were but the battered remnant of a proud fleet, fleeing northwards from the scene of their defeat.

CHAPTER VIII

STUART YORKSHIRE

THE rule of the Tudors came to an end on March 24, 1603, when Queen Elizabeth passed away in the palace of Richmond on the Thames. Three weeks later the new king, on his way south from Scotland, passed through Yorkshire and spent two days at York. There is a certain historical interest in the fact that he received the keys of the city at Micklegate Bar, through which Margaret Tudor, to whose Scottish marriage he owed the English crown, had entered York 100 years before.

James I, though the son of a Catholic, Mary Queen of Scots, had been brought up as a Presbyterian after his mother's death. As a result of his harsh enforcement of the penal laws against the Catholics, the Gunpowder Plot occurred within two years of his accession. Guido Fawkes, its most picturesque and heroic figure, was a Yorkshireman by birth and training. A native of Bishopthorpe, he was baptised in the church of St. Michael le Belfry in York, and passed his boyhood at Scotton, near Knaresborough. Widely different in character and outlook from Fawkes and his fellow-conspirators, but equally opposed to the king's religious policy, were the Yorkshire Puritans. The merchants of Hull and the weavers of the West

Riding were staunch Protestants of an extreme type, and they were encouraged in some measure by the Archbishop of York, Tobias Matthew, who permitted their ministers to 'prophecy' or preach at Halifax and other places. The Pilgrim Fathers, too, were connected with Yorkshire, for although they originated from Scrooby, only two or three miles over the Nottinghamshire border, their second attempt to escape from England was made on the banks of the Humber. This was frustrated, however, and they did not finally leave the country until 1620. Eighteen years later, an East Riding clergyman, Ezekiel Rogers, of Rowley, near Brough, sailed from Hull in the ship *John* with twenty of his parishioners to join the Puritan settlers in New England.

When Charles I came to the throne he was faced by financial as well as religious difficulties, which soon brought him into conflict with his Yorkshire subjects. In 1636 the county was assessed at the sum of £12,000 for the Ship Money tax, but two leading citizens—Sir Hugh Cholmley of Whitby, and Sir John Hotham of Hull—flatly refused to pay their amounts. Other expedients for obtaining money without consent of Parliament proved equally obnoxious. One of these was the granting of monopolies to certain privileged persons in exchange for a sum of money. James I had granted to a certain Alderman Cockayne the sole right of exporting finished cloth, and, in order to secure a sufficient supply of the raw material, had prohibited the export of unfinished cloth. As the bulk of the trade of the West Riding with Holland was in this unfinished material, the Yorkshire cloth merchants suffered under the system, and did not fail to protest vigorously

though unsuccessfully. In 1626 Leeds had got a municipal charter from Charles I, and a few years later seven of the chief citizens, realising the king's lack of revenue, purchased the manorial rights from the crown, as the burgesses of Bradford had done in 1628. The leader of this movement for self-government in Leeds was John Harrison, who is buried in St. John's Church, which he built, and whose statue stands in City Square. In this way the king's urgent desire for ready money proved to be good for the growing towns of the West Riding, since it enabled them to purchase certain privileges necessary for their development.

In order to curb the spirit of resistance that appeared to be growing up in Yorkshire, Charles I had appointed Thomas Wentworth as President of the Council of the North. Wentworth belonged to an old South Yorkshire family from Wentworth-Woodhouse, near Sheffield ; the organ case in Wakefield Cathedral was his gift, and his coat of arms may still be seen above the doorway of the King's Manor House at York, which now became his official residence. Wentworth ruled the county with a firm hand, but his government was no mere tyranny, and in many respects it was directed towards the best interests of those under his charge. In 1626, for example, the king had engaged Cornelius Vermuyden, the Dutch engineer, to drain the low-lying lands of Hatfield Chase near Doncaster. His operations caused great discontent amongst the men of the fens, who thought that their fowling and fishing-rights were going to be interfered with, and it was the task of Wentworth to look after their interests and satisfy their complaints. Five years later the plague broke out in York, and the President of the Council

adopted effective measures to stay its progress. He issued orders that, as soon as the disease attacked a



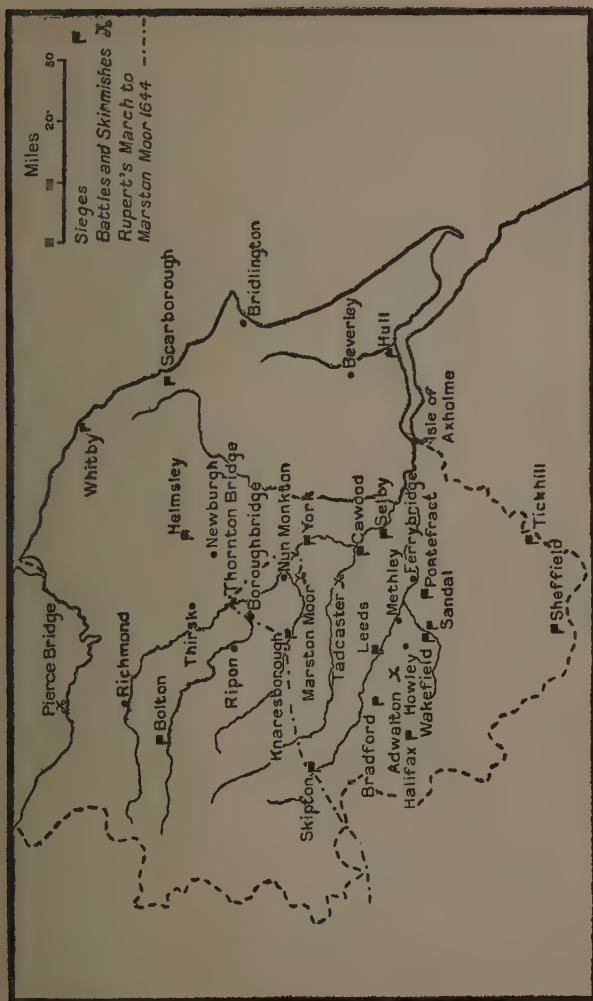
KING'S MANOR HOUSE, YORK

Originally the house of the Abbot of St. Mary's ; later the residence of the President of the Council of the North.

household, the Lord Mayor must be notified. Then he prohibited fairs and markets during the outbreak,

isolated infected persons in tents outside the city walls, and even prescribed and published simple remedies for the use of the people. A blacksmith's wife who boasted that 'if the sickness would come in fast enough, she would run among the thickest of them,' was publicly whipped as an example to others. In these ways Wentworth pursued his characteristic policy of 'Thorough' in Yorkshire, before being called upon to administer public affairs in Ireland.

But, despite these schemes of 'social reform,' the men of Yorkshire were growing daily more dissatisfied with Stuart rule in Church and State, particularly the former. In 1631, the year of the plague, Richard Neile was raised to the archbishopric. Neile was a supporter of Archbishop Laud, and came to his new diocese determined to enforce a higher standard of order and reverence in the services of the church. With this end in view, he issued several stringent regulations. Communicants were to kneel at the altar and not remain seated as formerly; the 'decent table' was to be covered with a cover of silk and a fair linen cloth at the celebration of Holy Communion; the minister must wear in church 'a comely surplesse with sleeves,' and Common Prayer was always to be said on Sundays and holy days. Neile also caused new churches to be built at Hunslet in Leeds and Attercliffe in Sheffield. That ecclesiastical reform was badly needed none could dispute. When King Charles visited York in 1633 he actually found a house built within the transept of the Minster, and gave orders for its demolition. But, to the Puritans of Yorkshire, such changes as the archbishop proposed were extremely repugnant, and they helped to arouse deep suspicion of



YORKSHIRE IN THE CIVIL WAR, 1642-9

the designs of the king and his French queen, Henrietta Maria.

It was this vital question of religion, indeed, that hastened on the final breach between Crown and Parliament. In 1639, when Archbishop Laud's attempt to introduce the English Prayer Book into Scotland failed, Charles again came to York to get together a northern army for service beyond the Tweed, but his hastily levied troops refused to march beyond the borders of their own county, and the scheme ended in failure. The following year another campaign was planned, with Selby as the base of operations. The Scots, however, took the offensive first and invaded the northern counties. The Bishop of Durham fled in panic to Helmsley Castle, the English soldiers were on the verge of mutiny, and the Scots got as far south as Ripon. Here, in October, they were bribed to return to their homes. A month later the famous Long Parliament met, and, within eighteen months, the Great Civil War had begun.

During the brief but eventful period before the actual outbreak of hostilities Yorkshire played an important part. In March, 1642, after the failure of his attempt to arrest the five members in the House of Commons, Charles left London for York. Here, according to a contemporary writer, 'most persons of quality of this great county, and of those adjacent, resorted to him.' He took up his lodgings in the Minster Yard, daily attending service in the cathedral, and here he set up his printing press, from which issued forth numerous pamphlets and broadsides, criticising the acts of Parliament during his absence. Then, on April 23, accompanied by a body of cavaliers, he suddenly

appeared before the walls of Hull, where the Commons had sent Sir John Hotham as governor, with instructions to keep watch over the large supply of ammunition in the fort. For four hours the king waited outside the Beverley Gate, but the Governor refused to let down the drawbridge, and Charles at length had to retire to York. Since the king had been refused admission to his own fortress, war was now only a question of time. On August 22, 1642, the Royal Standard was raised at Nottingham ; the conflict was now to be settled by the sword alone.

Into the question of the general strategy of this historic struggle we have no need to enter. For the first two years of the war Charles was making fruitless attempts to capture London ; then came the decisive engagement at Marston Moor, after which the military issue was never really in doubt. As far as Yorkshire is concerned, the war resolved itself into a conflict between the Marquis of Newcastle, Charles' commander in the north, and the two Fairfaxes, Lord Fairfax and his son Sir Thomas. The Fairfaxes were men of whom Yorkshire may well be proud, for they were keen soldiers, public-spirited citizens, and devoted to their county and its interests. They lived at Denton, and later at Nun Appleton in Lower Wharfedale, and they lie buried near their home—Lord Fairfax at Bolton Percy, and Sir Thomas at Bilbrough.

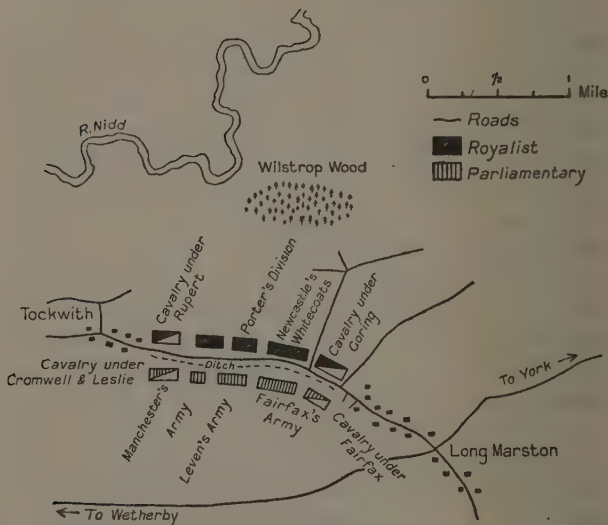
For the first few months of the war little of importance happened in Yorkshire. In the winter of 1642, however, after he had taken up his headquarters at Oxford, the king planned a combined attack on London, in which Newcastle was to co-operate by leading his Yorkshire army through the Midlands

towards the capital. The plan could only succeed if Hull and the towns in the West Riding were reduced, for Newcastle dare not venture to leave Yorkshire with these places untaken in his rear. His plan, therefore, during the winter of 1642, was to undertake, from the headquarters at York, two campaigns, one for the reduction of the West Riding, and the other for the conquest of the territory between the Humber and the sea. As a first offensive he transferred his headquarters to Pontefract Castle, where he had the assistance of Sir William Savile of Thornhill, near Dewsbury, the nephew of Strafford. In December, 1642, Savile captured Leeds and Wakefield with very little fighting and then proceeded to attack Bradford. But the sturdy Puritan weavers there, reinforced by the men of Halifax, successfully withstood the besiegers ; it is said that they even hung woolpacks on the tower of the Parish Church to protect it against the Royalist cannon balls. Newcastle was driven away with considerable loss, and, shortly afterwards, Sir Thomas Fairfax entered Bradford at the head of 400 or 500 men. The Roundheads now adopted the offensive and prepared to regain possession of Leeds. On the morning of January 23, 1643, Fairfax took up his position in a blinding snowstorm on Woodhouse Moor to the north of the town, whilst another body of Parliamentary troops was quartered on Hunslet Moor, south of the River Aire. The siege only lasted a few hours. By four in the afternoon the Royalist garrison had surrendered ; Sir William Savile and Mr. Robinson, the Vicar of Leeds, made their escape by swimming across the river and taking refuge at Methley Hall, one of the seats of the Savile family. A few months

later, however, Savile was appointed Governor of Sheffield, which, because of its forges and factories for the manufacture of ammunition, proved to be of great importance to the king. But no sooner had fortune begun to favour the Yorkshire Roundheads than it deserted them again. A month after the capture of Leeds, Queen Henrietta Maria landed at Bridlington Quay with a large supply of ammunition for her husband ; she had obtained this in Holland by pawning the crown jewels. She only just escaped capture by the fleet, which was cruising near the Yorkshire coast in expectation of her return. In June Newcastle's victory at Adwalton Moor, and his recapture of Bradford, Leeds and Wakefield again placed the West Riding in the king's hands.

In the East Riding success depended upon Hull, which Newcastle had proceeded to besiege after Adwalton Moor, for if that fortress could be captured the whole of Yorkshire might be won for Charles. The situation was therefore critical in the extreme. The Governor, Sir John Hotham, and his son were under suspicion of treachery ; the latter, it was believed, had paid a secret visit to the queen during her stay at Bridlington to discuss the betrayal of Hull to the king. Fortunately for the Parliament, however, the plot was discovered in time, and Sir John was arrested in the market place at Beverley and Captain Hotham in his own bedroom in Hull. The citizens themselves appointed Lord Fairfax as their governor, whilst Sir Thomas Fairfax marched into Lincolnshire to join forces with the Earl of Manchester and Oliver Cromwell. On October 10, the latter defeated a Royalist army at Winceby, near Horncastle, and the following

day the siege of Hull was raised, an event which is still commemorated annually by the holding of Hull Fair. A few days later Cromwell himself crossed the Humber and entered the fortress. The importance of the stand made by Hull can hardly be overestimated. In the



PLAN OF THE BATTLE OF MARSTON MOOR, JULY 2, 1644

words of the great historian of the Civil War, Dr. Gardiner, 'Hull and Plymouth saved the cause of the Parliament.'

The following year, 1644, marks the turning point of the struggle. In fulfilment of the terms of the Solemn League and Covenant, a Scottish army under David Leslie had crossed the border in support of

Parliament. Newcastle marched north to stay its progress, but was forced to retreat and take refuge behind the walls of York. On April 18 began the siege of York, which lasted nearly three months. The city was invested on three sides by the Parliamentary troops, Cromwell taking up his position on the north, Fairfax on the east, and the Scots on the south and west. In the meantime, Prince Rupert had been despatched from Oxford by the king with orders to raise the siege. Crossing the Pennines in the neighbourhood of Skipton, he approached York from the north through Boroughbridge and Tollerton, and on July 2, the investing forces withdrew some six or seven miles to the west along the road to Wetherby. Here, on Marston Moor, as the summer evening was beginning to close in, commenced the decisive battle of the Civil War. There is no need to re-tell the story of that famous fight. Cromwell's own words are eloquent in their Puritan simplicity: 'We never charged, but we routed the enemy. God made them as stubble to our swords.' Before nightfall Rupert had been driven from the field, and Newcastle was fleeing towards Scarborough to take ship for France. The king's cause in the north was irretrievably ruined. One pleasing fact stands out in the story of these eventful days. When the victorious Roundheads entered York two days after the battle, Lord Fairfax was made governor of the city, and we owe it to the vigorous local patriotism of his son, Sir Thomas, that the Minster, with its priceless store of medieval glass, was not damaged beyond repair by the over-zealous Ironsides.

The military operations in Yorkshire during the

eighteen months that followed Marston Moor resolved themselves into a series of sieges. Several isolated strongholds still held out for the king, but they were steadily and systematically reduced. Sheffield and Tickhill in South Yorkshire were the first castles to fall, while in November, Knaresborough and Helmsley capitulated. Colonel Crossland, who had made a gallant defence of the latter, was allowed to march out with his colours, but one of the articles of surrender provided 'that the castle of Helmsley be absolutely demolished, and that no garrison hereafter be kept there by either party.' In July of the following year, Scarborough Castle surrendered to the Parliament; it had been betrayed to the king by its governor, Sir Hugh Cholmley of Whitby, at the time when Hotham had endeavoured to betray Hull. Sandal and Bolton were taken in the autumn, and by the Christmas of 1645 Skipton had ceased to hold out. It is worthy of note that Pontefract Castle sustained no less than three sieges, one of them at the hands of Cromwell, before it finally surrendered in March, 1649, two months after the king had been put to death. In the meantime, Charles surrendered to the Scots at Newark (May, 1646), and, whilst being taken to their headquarters at Newcastle, he passed the night in Leeds at the Red Hall. An interesting story is told in this connection of John Harrison. Wishing to help his royal master in his distress, he managed to convey secretly to him a number of gold coins hidden in a tankard that was supposed to contain wine. There used to be a street in the city known as King Charles' Croft, which kept alive the memory of the unfortunate monarch. After the Scots had delivered him to Parliament, Charles I

again passed through Yorkshire on his way south, lodging this time at Ripon. When, after two years of fruitless negotiation and intrigue, the tragedy finally reached its climax, the warrant for the king's execution contained more than one Yorkshire name, including that of the last of the Constables of Flamborough.

The death of Charles I was followed by the establishment of a Republican Government in the State, with Cromwell as Protector, in 1653, and the triumph of Presbyterianism in the Church. During the Commonwealth Roman Catholics and Anglican Churchmen alike suffered for their convictions. The district around Malton, for example, saw many persons imprisoned as suspected seminary priests, whilst in 1656 a bonfire was made in the market place of that town for the purpose of burning various 'popish' articles, such as beads and crucifixes, which had been discovered in neighbouring farmhouses. Some of the clergy of the Church of England, too, refused to give up the use of the Prayer Book, and were ejected from their livings. On the north wall of Birkin Church, near Knottingley, is a tablet with the following significant inscription. 'Near this place lies interred the body of Robert Thornton, A.M., Rector of Birkin, who for his Loyalty to his King and affection to ye Church of Eng and was several times Plundered, tied to a Horse Tail and dragged to Cawood Castle.' This was a distance of ten miles ! Even certain Puritans were persecuted by the authorities of the Commonwealth. One of these was George Fox, the Quaker, who paid his first visit to Yorkshire two years after the death of King Charles. He gained many adherents in the county, especially

among the farmers on the Cleveland Moors, but he was often subjected to the violence of the mob. He managed to speak without interruption in the 'steeple house' at Beverley, but when he attempted to address the congregation in York Minster, he was thrown out forcibly. Amongst Fox's Yorkshire followers was Robert Fowler, of Bridlington, who built a small ship, the *Woodhouse*, in which a number of Quakers succeeded in crossing the Atlantic to join others in the New World. There was one sect, however, for which Cromwell was able to secure toleration, namely, the Jews, who had been expelled from England centuries before. When disputes broke out between England and Holland over questions of trade and shipping, Cromwell realised the wisdom, from a business point of view, of inducing wealthy Jewish merchants to come over from the Netherlands to settle in this country. It is interesting to note that the English ambassador who arranged for a number of these Dutch Jews to settle in London was a Yorkshireman, Walter Strickland, whose tomb may be seen in Flamborough Church. But Cromwell's system of government, enlightened though it was in many ways, was not destined to survive his death for long. On September 3, 1658, the great Protector passed away in his palace of Whitehall, and within two years Charles II had been restored to the throne of England. Cromwell was buried in Westminster Abbey, but after the Restoration his body was removed by his enemies and hung in chains on Tyburn Tree. Yet a persistent tradition maintains that his bones do not lie near the scene of this indignity, but that they were taken away secretly by his daughter, Mary Cromwell, who had married a Yorkshire peer, Lord Fauconberg, and were

buried in a brick vault at her home, Newburgh Priory, near Coxwold.

The Restoration was the occasion of great rejoicing in Yorkshire. On January 11, 1660, General Monk, on his way from Scotland, entered York through the Bar which bears his name, and exactly four months later the restored monarch was proclaimed from the steps leading to the south door of the Minster. When Charles II made his triumphal entry into London on the 'Royal Oak Day' of that year, the horse on which he rode was the gift of Lord (formerly Sir Thomas) Fairfax, and bore the name of the Yorkshire village, Nun Appleton. At Richmond, in Swaledale, there were great festivities, in the course of which 'the soldiers marched up to the Cross, where they gave many volleys of shot, with push of pike and many other martial feats.' Nevertheless, despite the change of Government, the old problems remained unsolved, and toleration was still only an ideal of the few. There were, indeed, certain outstanding opponents, whom even the most ardent Cavalier could not but respect. Such was Andrew Marvell, poet and politician, who represented Hull in Parliament for eighteen years after the accession of Charles II, and who was a model of all the civic virtues. But many a humbler Puritan now suffered for his convictions. Oliver Heywood was expelled from his vicarage at Halifax for refusing to use the Prayer Book, and George Fox, the Quaker, had to undergo a long imprisonment in Scarborough Castle, where, as he records in his Journal, 'the wind drove in the rain forcibly so that the water came over my bed and ran about the room, that I was fain to skim it up with a platter.' Moreover, during the period

of panic that followed the supposed discovery of the Popish Plot, English Catholics like Sir Thomas Gascoigne of Barnbow, a small hamlet between Leeds and Garforth, were arrested on the charge of complicity, whilst in 1672, Nicholas Postgate, a devoted priest in the Whitby district, was put to death at York Castle for baptising a child at the moorland village of Ugglebarnby.

With the death of Charles II and the accession of his brother, James II, in 1685, the position of the Catholics improved, as the new king was an avowed adherent of the old faith. Ten new justices of the peace were created in the West Riding, and Lord Thomas Howard, 'a zealous Papist,' was appointed Lord Lieutenant of the county. In order to obtain the support of the Protestant Dissenters, James issued his Declaration of Indulgence, with instructions that it should be read in the churches. Amongst the seven bishops who were imprisoned in connection with this measure was Lake of Chichester, a former Vicar of Leeds. At Scarborough the vicar refused to read the Declaration from his pulpit, upon which the mayor struck him with his cane; the parishioners, however, promptly showed their sympathy with the parson by proceeding to toss the unfortunate mayor in a blanket. When at last distrust of the king caused an invitation to be sent to William of Orange, York and Hull, with other Yorkshire towns, declared for the Dutch prince. As it was thought that William might land in the Humber, Lord Danby, afterwards Duke of Leeds, made active preparations to welcome him. Some 6,000 or 7,000 soldiers came ashore at Hull, and there is an interesting memento of these stormy times in a tablet on the

wall of St. Mary's Church, Beverley, which reads as follows :

‘ Here two young Danish souldiers lye,
The one in quarrell chanc'd to die,
The other's Head, by their own Law
With sword was sever'd at one blow.’

Yet Yorkshire, after all, was not to have the distinction of receiving William on his arrival in his new kingdom. Nevertheless, his coming meant much to the county. For, with the ‘Glorious Revolution’ of 1688, there was inaugurated an era of greater tolerance in matters of religion and politics. The old feuds began to die down, and the eighteenth century witnessed a period of peaceful progress that lasted until the Industrial Revolution ushered in changes of the utmost importance to Yorkshire.

CHAPTER IX

THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

THE term *Industrial Revolution* is one used by historians to describe a series of changes occurring towards the end of the eighteenth century, which transformed England from an agricultural community into one mainly industrial. As far as Yorkshire is concerned, its chief effect was to increase the importance of the West Riding at the expense of the rest of the county. Until the reign of Queen Elizabeth the greater part of the West Riding was waste land, unenclosed and uninhabited. To-day, three out of the four millions of people in Yorkshire live in that division of the county and are dependent for their livelihood on its great staple industries.

It is difficult to realise how isolated and backward Yorkshire was prior to the Industrial Revolution. It was not until 1759, for example, that the first road was made across the moors from Pickering to Whitby; before this, the only means of reaching the old seaport were from the sea, or along the 'horse-wyndy' or flagged causeways, which may still be traced amongst the heather. When George I was king, it took eight hours to travel by coach from York to Leeds, a journey that may now be undertaken comfortably in less than an hour, either by road or rail. Travelling, moreover,

in those days, was not only slow, but also dangerous, as the following entry in the diary of Ralph Thoresby, the Yorkshire antiquary, shows. On Sunday, February 13, 1709, just before leaving London for his home in Leeds, Thoresby writes, 'In the evening I was at the prayers in St. Laurence Church, and requested a devout gentleman . . . that they would please to continue their prayers for those upon their journey till Friday next : it is a good provision against dangers to have a stock of prayers going forward for us.' Thoresby's fears can hardly have been unfounded, for it was not until thirty years after this date that Dick Turpin, the notorious highwayman, was hanged at York Castle.

The first developments in the transition from ancient to modern forms of industry were in connection with agriculture. Even to-day much of the land in Yorkshire, especially in the north and west, is quite unsuited for cultivation, but before the Industrial Revolution the proportion of waste land was much greater. The chalk wolds of East Yorkshire, which now furnish some of the finest arable land in England, were chiefly utilised for sheep farming, whilst the inhabitants of the West Riding, according to Defoe, scarcely sowed enough corn 'to feed their poultry.' The main corn-growing area in the shire was the rich Plain of York, and here, until the middle of the eighteenth century, the old system of farming prevailed that had come down from the Middle Ages. In almost every manor stretched the great open fields, divided into strips, and memories of the old common or pasture land survive in odd names like that of the 'Stray' at Harrogate. But during the eighteenth century a great change took place in agriculture, when thousands of acres, pre-

viously woodland or waste, were brought under the plough, and the appearance of the countryside was greatly altered as a result of the Enclosure Movement. Some of these enclosures, of course, were for the benefit of all concerned. No one, except officials of the Crown, could reasonably complain, for instance, when some enterprising landowner took over a few acres of moor or fen on the borders of his estate and endeavoured to cultivate them. In 1771, Arthur Young, one of our earliest scientific farmers, came on tour through the northern counties, and he in recording his observations makes several references to enclosures of this type in Yorkshire. The land on either side of the valley of the Tees, he tells us, 'used not to yield a farthing an acre,' whereas, after enclosure, it was worth 7s. 6d. We may often see to-day, adjoining the farmsteads on the moors of North Yorkshire, small portions of land reclaimed from the surrounding waste of peat and heather, and bearing the suggestive name of 'intake.' But another type of enclosure often led to great distress among the labouring classes. From time immemorial, the villager had claimed the right of cutting his firewood and pasturing his cattle on the common or village green, and when these were enclosed by the lord of the manor and the chief landowners by agreement among themselves, the peasant was often deprived of one of his means of livelihood. The following extract from a Board of Agriculture Report for the year 1808, relating to the village of Kirkburn, near Driffild, reveals clearly the disastrous effects of the enclosures of this kind. 'The inclosure has proved of singular advantage to great landowners and their tenants; but the labourer who, previous to the inclosure, had his

cowgate and from thence derived considerable nourishment to his small family, was deprived of this aid by his inability to inclose, therefore was under the necessity of selling his tenements to his richer neighbour, and deprived his family of a comfortable refuge.' Herein we find one of the causes of that drifting of population from the countryside to the towns which began at the time of the Industrial Revolution and has continued ever since.

Nevertheless, these developments in agriculture mark but the beginning of the great change to modern industrial conditions, which were rendered possible owing to the remarkable progress in methods of transport. 'Of all inventions,' says Macaulay, 'the alphabet and the printing-press alone excepted, those inventions which abridge distance have done most for civilisation.' The eighteenth century witnessed a notable improvement in English roads, largely as the result of the introduction of the turnpike system. A group of wealthy men would undertake the construction or repair of a certain section of road, and repay themselves for their outlay by erecting toll-bars and making a charge for the use of the road. Travellers naturally objected to these payments and often adopted forcible measures to avoid them. In 1753, for instance, during the course of a disturbance on the Harrogate road between Leeds and Harewood, eight persons were killed. Similar affrays were frequent on the Great North Road between the toll collectors and the cattle drovers, who were driving their beasts from Scotland to the English markets. To this period belongs one of our first modern Yorkshire roadmakers, John Metcalfe, commonly known as 'Blind Jack of Knaresborough,'

from the fact that he had been blind from childhood. Metcalfe was an eccentric individual who, after a varied and interesting career, during the course of which he was present at the battle of Culloden, took up the business of road-making, being responsible for the construction of some 200 miles of road in Yorkshire, including the highways from Leeds to Harrogate, from Knaresborough to Wetherby and Wakefield to Dewsbury. Dying at the age of ninety-three, he was buried in the churchyard of Spofforth, near Harrogate.

A further stage in the development of transport came with the canal. No county is richer in natural waterways than Yorkshire, and from the days of the Roman occupation frequent attempts had been made to render the Yorkshire rivers more navigable. In 1625 a Bill was introduced into Parliament for making the Aire and Calder 'navigable and passable for boats, barges and other vessels,' but it was rejected owing to the opposition of the citizens of York, who did not wish these rivers to compete with the Ouse. The scheme was revived in the reign of William III, for it was felt that there should be some means of getting the cloth, which was brought down the dales by pack-horses, more easily to Hull for shipment to the Continent. Then in 1770 the construction of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, designed to bring the industries of the West Riding into more intimate touch with the Lancashire ports, was begun. It was opened for traffic at Leeds in June, 1777, the occasion being one of great rejoicing. There is an amusing account of the ceremony in one of the old newspapers, the *York Courant* : 'At eight in the morning the Bradford vessels moved from Apperley Bridge and arrived at Leeds Lock at

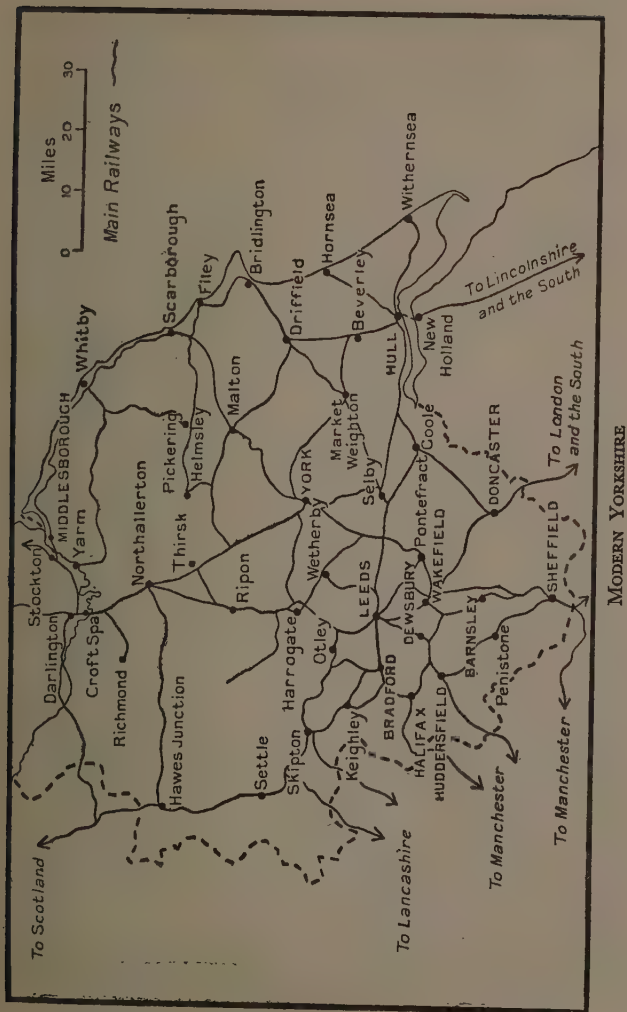


HULL IN 1735
From a contemporary engraving by J. Haynes of York

half after twelve, where a booth was erected and the company regaled with a cold collation, coffee, etc. On the vessels passing the locks, guns were fired from the ramparts. . . . Although the vessels and pleasure boats on the river and canal were very numerous, no accident has come to our knowledge, but the whole was conducted with great regularity, and the day was spent with harmony, festivity and decorum.' The work was completed the year after Waterloo, and the canal is still the principal one in the county.

But the progress of canal construction was suddenly arrested, not only in Yorkshire, but in the country as a whole, by the advent of the railway. This ranks as a characteristic creation of the Industrial Revolution, just as the motor car is a typical product of our own time. Railway making, like road making, is dependent to a great extent on the 'lie of the land,' and nothing is more instructive than a comparison between the Roman roads of Yorkshire in the second and third centuries and the railways in the nineteenth. Ermine Street, for example, keeps well to the western edge of the Vale of York to avoid the floods, whilst the main line of the London and North-Eastern Railway takes the lower level to avoid the gradients. In the south-western corner of the county, where the Pennine Chain is comparatively narrow, the road crosses the heights, while the railway proceeds through the tunnel; and yet, broadly speaking, both road and rail follow the same lines. This may be seen clearly in the passage of the Aire Gap into Lancashire, and in the routes from York to the Yorkshire coast.

The fundamental idea of the railway originated as far back as the seventeenth century. The earliest



‘wagon-ways,’ as they were called, were laid in Durham and Northumberland for conveying coal from the pit to the port. They consisted of hard wooden rails resting on sleepers, the trucks being drawn by horses. Later, iron rails were substituted and were known as ‘plate-ways.’ In 1759, the year of Wolfe’s capture of Quebec, a tramway was constructed to bring coal from the Middleton Colliery to Leeds, a distance of two or three miles, and in 1812 the trucks on this line were drawn for the first time by a locomotive, the work of Matthew Murray, a Leeds engineer, and named the ‘Blenkinsop,’ after the manager of the colliery. Some ten years later, Edward Pease, a Darlington Quaker, was largely instrumental in securing an Act of Parliament authorising the construction of a line for horse traction from Darlington to Stockton, which was then the principal port on the Tees. According to the prospectus that was issued, ‘a great nuisance will be removed from the roads in this part of the country by substituting for the numerous one-horse carts and carrying horses and asses, which now infest them, about one-tenth of their number on the railway.’ It was suggested to the directors, however, by George Stephenson, that a steam engine would be preferable to horses, and on September 27, 1825, the railway line from Darlington to Stockton was first opened for traffic. At first it was for goods only, but later it was used for passenger traffic as well. The earliest passenger coaches, a specimen of which may be seen in the Railway Museum at York, were built on the lines of the old stage coach, and had the luggage strapped on the roof. These were for first-class passengers only ; those who travelled third class were

accommodated in open carriages, not very different from cattle trucks. A relic of these early railway days may be seen just outside the station at Grosmont, near Whitby, where, side by side with the tunnel, is the narrower opening through which horse trains used to pass on their journey to Pickering when the line was first opened in 1836. The most prominent figure in the railway world of Yorkshire at this time was George Hudson, 'the Railway King,' as he was called. After a successful career as a draper in York, Hudson became Lord Mayor of the city and Chairman of the York and North Midland Railway Company, which was formed to develop York as a railway centre. When we enter the magnificent station at York to-day we find it difficult to realise that the first station consisted of only two rooms, one of them occupied by the secretary of the company, and the other by the booking clerk ! The line from Leeds to Derby, constructed in 1840, brought Yorkshire into rail communication with London and the south, whilst the completion of the line from York to Darlington in the following year opened the way to Scotland. At the same time, the line from York to Normanton provided a link whereby communication was established between London and Edinburgh by way of York, and thus we have the origin of the East Coast Route of the present day. After the middle of the nineteenth century, the county became covered with a network of small, local lines, but in course of time these have been amalgamated to form the various trunk lines that we know to-day.

Just as the development of the railways rendered possible the Industrial Revolution in Yorkshire, so did the progress in the textile trades form the basis of the

commercial prosperity of the county. Until the period of the Tudors and Stuarts the weaving industry was carried on, not only in Yorkshire, but also in Norfolk



THE OLD CLOTH HALL, LEEDS

and Somerset, but by the end of the eighteenth century it had become to a great extent localised in the West Riding, within a quadrilateral joining the four towns of Leeds, Wakefield, Huddersfield and Halifax ; this area is known as the Heavy Woollen District, and is

to-day the chief centre of cloth making in Britain. In the days before its beauty had been marred by long rows of stone cottages and great factories, whose many workpeople are now engaged in weaving cloth from imported wool, it was a region eminently suited by Nature to be the home of this industry. The hills, in which the Aire and Calder have their source, provided pasture for the sheep, and the pure soft water, rushing down in innumerable "becks" from the sandstones and shales of the neighbouring moors, was invaluable for the cleansing of the wool, ready for the spinning-wheel and the loom. Defoe, whose *Tour of Great Britain* was published in the year that George II became king, noted the fact that the district around Halifax was like one great village, with 'hardly an house standing out of a speaking distance from another, and . . . at every house a tenter, and on almost every tenter a piece of cloth.' The weaving was almost entirely carried on in the homes of the workers, and even at the beginning of the Industrial Revolution the Yorkshire towns were still small. In 1750, out of a population of 360,000 in the West Riding, only some 15,000 lived in Leeds, its principal town. The men and women engaged in this 'Domestic System' of industry, as it was termed, were of a sturdy, independent stock, the type of character described so vividly and faithfully in the novels of the Brontë sisters, whose lives were passed amongst the farmers and weavers in the moorland village of Haworth. In Mrs. Gaskell's *Life of Charlotte Brontë* we have many a striking picture of the hard life of these Yorkshire people in the early days of the Industrial Revolution. 'For instance,' she writes, 'one woollen manufacturer says that, not five and twenty years ago,

he had to rise betimes to set off on a winter's morning in order to be at Bradford with the great wagon-load of goods manufactured by his father ; this load was packed over-night, but in the morning there was a great gathering around it, and flashing of lanterns, and examination of horses' feet, before the ponderous wagon got under way ; and then someone had to go groping here and there, on hands and knees, and always sounding with a staff down the long, steep, slippery brow, to find where the horses might tread safely, until they reached the comparative easy-going of the deep-rutted main road.'

Then, towards the end of the eighteenth century, this rough, simple mode of life was interrupted by the introduction of machinery. This meant the end of the 'Domestic System,' for the machines were far too costly and elaborate for the cottage, and could only be housed in the factory. Although most of them were the invention of north countrymen, the power loom, which was to play the leading part in the development of the textile trades in the West Riding, was due to the mechanical genius of Edward Cartwright, a clergyman in Kent. His first machine was worked by a bull, but in the year 1789 he erected a power loom at Doncaster that could be worked by steam. As a sign of the rapid strides made in the application of steam power to cloth weaving, we may note that in 1815 there were only 2,000 or 3,000 power looms in use in England, whilst twenty years later the number had risen to 100,000. Useful and profitable as these machines were to the manufacturer who owned them and the mill in which they were erected, they were a source of great discontent to the workpeople. The long war with



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A WEAVING SHED IN WOODROYD MILLS, BRADFORD, OWNED BY MESSRS.
JOHN HALLIDAY & SON, LTD.

Napoleon had impoverished the country, unemployment was rife, and the artisans blamed the new inventions for throwing so many persons out of work. Frequent riots took place in the manufacturing towns, and machines were broken by men known as Luddites, after a Leicestershire half-wit, Ned Lud, who smashed the first stocking frames. In 1812 a mob of angry workpeople in Sheffield attacked the barracks and destroyed 300 guns, whilst in 1826 a similar raid on Horsfall's mill at Bradford, where the new power loom had been installed, led to the deaths of two men. In course of time this short-sighted policy of destruction proved to be its own undoing, but for some years the military and municipal authorities in the West Riding were constantly prepared for an armed rising of the workers in their midst.

The new machines were dependent on an adequate supply of coal for their working, so that the growth of the Yorkshire coalfield is one of the most important features of the Industrial Revolution. This coalfield forms part of the largest coal area in England; it stretches from Leeds and Bradford in the north to Nottingham in the south, and dips away eastward towards the Humber and Lincolnshire. The deep seams to the south-east of Doncaster show that these mines have been worked for several centuries. In Stuart times, Yorkshire people were already burning coal instead of wood in their homes, and the supplies near the surface were being mined. Sir Thomas Gascoigne had a number of pits around Barwick-in-Elmet and Aberford to the east of Leeds, where the outcrops of the old workings are still visible. These primitive coal pits were usually only about 60 feet in

depth, the coal being drawn up by water power. By the middle of the eighteenth century, the shallower seams between Leeds and Wakefield were being worked. In 1786 the miners at Middleton Colliery were working eight hours a day, and getting 2s. or 3s. a day in wages. They ascended and descended the pit shaft by means of ladders, or sitting in a loop made at the end of a chain.

But if coal had been employed merely for domestic purposes the Yorkshire mining industry would never have attained its present importance. Its greatest developments have been in connection with the smelting of ironstone. In the Middle Ages the iron ore was smelted with charcoal, and the earliest furnaces were located amidst the forests on the Sussex Weald, but when the supply of timber in the south became exhausted, coal became a necessity, and in consequence the iron trade moved to Yorkshire. The chief man to develop the process for smelting iron by means of coal was a Yorkshire engineer, John Smeaton, the builder of the Eddystone Lighthouse. Smeaton lived at Austhorpe Hall, near Leeds, where his workshop may still be seen, while his tomb is in Whitkirk Church near by. Furnaces soon began to spring up in those regions where the supply of ironstone was near the supply of coal. There were two such districts in Yorkshire. One was on the western edge of the Yorkshire coalfield, where a plentiful outcrop of ironstone was to be found, and here ironworks were erected at Masborough, near Rotherham, in 1746, and at Low Moor, near Bradford, in 1788. The other district was in the north-eastern corner of the county, between the lower reaches of the Tees and the coast. Ironstone mining, it is true, had been carried on in the

Cleveland Hills by the Canons of Guisborough before the Reformation ; in many a secluded spot on the moors around Eskdale we may still come across the grass-grown depressions and deserted slag heaps of these old workings. But the real importance of the Cleveland iron trade dates from the period of the Industrial Revolution, when it was found that the ironstone could be smelted with coal from the pits of Durham and Northumberland. About the middle of the nineteenth century the famous partnership was established between Henry Bolckow and John Vaughan which laid the foundations of the commercial prosperity of Middlesbrough and the surrounding district. In 1801 there were only about twenty people living on the spot where Middlesbrough now stands. The possibilities of the site, however, were grasped by a body of enterprising business men, and, by the year 1853, there was a large town in existence, of sufficient importance to become a corporate borough, whose coat of arms, bearing the motto *Erimus* (‘ We shall be ’) exactly expresses the spirit of its founders. Since that time the Tees has come to be one of the chief centres of shipbuilding in the world.

The other industries to which the Industrial Revolution gave rise in Yorkshire are too numerous to mention. Nevertheless, space must be found for a word about the great steel trade in South Yorkshire. The earliest metal workers in the county appear to have been in York, but in the fourteenth century we read of the miller in one of Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales* having a ‘ Shefeld thwitel (knife) in his hose.’ In Tudor times a good many cutlers left York owing to the vexatious restrictions placed upon them by the

strict regulations of the local gilds. In all probability several of them settled in Sheffield, for, at the beginning of the seventeenth century, we find from the rent rolls of the Earl of Shrewsbury, who was the lord of the manor, that there were twenty-eight cutler's wheels in that town. In 1624 the Cutlers' Company was formed, and the outbreak of the Civil War a few years later increased the importance of Sheffield as a centre for the manufacture of arms and ammunition. Some fifty years later Defoe remarked that 'the houses look dark and black by the continued smoke.' If only he could have visited the same spot in our own time, his comments would doubtless have been far more unfavourable. The advent of the steamship and the railway train in the nineteenth century gave an immense impetus to the steel trade, until to-day Sheffield, as the home of a university and the centre of a bishopric, is one of the greatest of our modern cities.

The Industrial Revolution is undoubtedly the most significant period in the history of Yorkshire. It cannot be denied that it was responsible for the defilement of much of our countryside, for the existence of many perplexing social problems, and for the weakening of some of our most valued historic traditions. But this is only one side of the picture. Looking at it from the standpoint of the present day, we now see that it gave wider opportunities of material advancement and intellectual culture to our people, and that it enabled 'the Shire of the Broad Acres' to continue to play an important part in the history of modern England.

CHAPTER X

MODERN YORKSHIRE

ALTHOUGH the movement termed the Industrial Revolution is generally associated by historians with the latter part of the eighteenth century, it is well to remember that it is still in progress, for England is to-day one of the leading manufacturing countries in the world, and science is more than ever being applied to industry. Nevertheless, as far as Yorkshire is concerned, the direction of its industrial development had been determined by the middle of the nineteenth century, and subsequent progress has been along the lines then laid down.

With the exception of the districts around Hull and Middlesbrough, the eastern and central portions of the county continue to be largely engaged in agriculture, and the main industries are to be found in the south and west. The Plain of York, watered by the Ouse and its tributaries, has always been noted for corn-growing, and along its western edge, where a long belt of magnesian limestone runs from north to south, fruit is extensively cultivated. The Yorkshire Wolds, once bare, unenclosed sheep-walks, were reclaimed about 100 years ago, largely by the efforts of Sir Christopher Sykes, of Sledmere, and now they furnish some of the best arable land in the county. The West

Riding is pre-eminently the home of the woollen trade, Leeds being the principal cloth market in Europe. Bradford specialises in worsteds, whilst the other towns in the lower valleys of the Aire and Calder, such as Halifax, Huddersfield, Dewsbury and Batley, are engaged in the weaving of their own distinct varieties of cloth. Although Sheffield is still noted for its cutlery, its main industry is now the manufacture of steel rails, machinery, and armour plate for battleships. There are also important engineering works in Leeds, and blast furnaces for the smelting of iron. During recent years, striking developments have taken place in the coalfields of South Yorkshire, and Doncaster is no longer an old-world market town, but the centre of a thickly populated industrial area. The two great estuaries of the Tees and the Humber are responsible for the localisation of the industries of north and east Yorkshire. The story of the rapid rise of Middlesbrough is one of the romances of modern industrialism, whilst Hull is now the third port in England. The growth of the latter is largely due to the fact that it provides the nearest deep-water harbour on the east coast to the coalfields of Yorkshire and Lancashire, and is at the same time well situated for the import of grain and timber from the Baltic lands.

A passing reference only can be given to recent developments in modes of transport. In the early years of the Victorian Age the railway supplanted the highway as a medium of communication, just as the first quarter of the present century has witnessed a remarkable revival of the road. The writer of a well-known guide to Yorkshire, published less than thirty years ago, speaks thus of the Great North Road :



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THE "SIR WILLIAM WRIGHT" DOCK, HULL

‘Whether it was great or otherwise, is of little moment now, except to cyclists and ragged beggarmen, for they alone out of the whole community travel its deserted ways, which were once so full of noisy life.’ This is no longer true of that road in these days of motor transport.

To the historian, however, the importance of the nineteenth century does not lie merely in its contribution to the comforts and conveniences of civilisation, for it was also an age of memorable political achievements and of wise reform in local and national affairs. When George IV came to the throne the government of Yorkshire was what it had been for centuries, despite the fact that the Industrial Revolution had completely changed the aspect of the countryside, whilst the French Revolution had filled men’s minds with new ideas of liberty and equality. The method of representing the people in Parliament was marked by many abuses. The county as a whole had two members in the House of Commons, elected by the ‘Forty Shilling Freeholders,’ as the holders of property worth £2 *per annum* were called. The county elections were times of intense excitement. The hustings were erected in St. Sampson’s Square at York, and the narrow streets were thronged with rival crowds of Whigs, wearing blue favours, and Tories, wearing yellow. Sometimes the election would last as long as a fortnight, for, if a poll was demanded by either party, each voter had to mount the platform and announce publicly the candidate of his choice. Such a system naturally fostered bribery and corruption, but it was sanctioned by almost immemorial usage, and survived until the passing of the new Act for secret voting called the Ballot Act of 1872. Besides the county members,

however, there were the representatives of the Yorkshire boroughs. These boroughs were not the manufacturing towns, like Leeds and Sheffield, where the bulk of the urban population of the county was concentrated, but old-fashioned market towns, such as Richmond and Boroughbridge, which had once been important, but had since become less so, as a result of the Industrial Revolution. The qualifications of the voters varied greatly. In the case of the 'Pocket Boroughs,' the elections were controlled by some neighbouring landowner, whose nominee was generally returned without difficulty. In 1780, for example, Edmund Burke became member for Malton through the influence of his patron, Lord Rockingham, who belonged to the powerful Yorkshire family of the Wentworths. Another type of constituency was the 'Rotten Borough,' in which only a few people, such as the members of an ancient corporation, possessed the right to vote. The little town of Hedon, near Hull, regularly returned two members to Parliament from the days of Edward I, although an alteration in the course of the Humber had deprived it of its commercial importance as early as the sixteenth century.

And yet, in spite of such manifest abuses and irregularities, more than one famous statesman in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries represented Yorkshire in the House of Commons. William Wilberforce, for instance, entered Parliament at the age of twenty-one as member for his native town of Hull, though he later became one of the two county members. His house is still one of the show places of the city, and the self-sacrificing labour of a noble life is commemorated on his monument in the simple words,

‘ Negro Slavery Abolished, 1 August MDCCCXXXIV.’ But the system of representation was essentially bad, and during the latter part of the eighteenth century a great agitation in favour of Parliamentary Reform took place in Yorkshire, especially in 1769 and again in 1783, when petitions were sent to Parliament from York, Scarborough, and other parts of the county, pleading for a more equitable system of representation. It was in the West Riding, however, where the workers in mine and factory had no voice in national affairs, that the reform movement found its strongest supporters. A majority of the men in Parliament naturally favoured a continuance of the system by which they held their seats, and when the people of Sheffield forwarded a petition asking for ‘ a representation from population alone,’ the House refused to receive it. By the end of the long war with France, the agitation had assumed serious proportions. Two years after Waterloo an enormous meeting was held in Huddersfield, during the course of which the crowd fired upon the yeomanry who had been sent to disperse them, and after a similar gathering shortly afterwards twenty-two of the more ardent reformers were transported across the seas. But a change was at hand. In 1821 two additional county members were allotted to Yorkshire, and at last, in 1832, came the Great Reform Bill, the first of a series of measures which have practically established universal suffrage in England. This Act abolished the representation of the ‘ Rotten Boroughs ’ of Aldborough, Boroughbridge, and Hedon, and gave, for the first time, members to the larger towns—Leeds, Bradford, Sheffield, Halifax, Wakefield and Huddersfield. Thomas Babington Macaulay, afterwards Lord

Macaulay, who had been one of the leading champions of the Reform Bill, and Mr. Marshall, a well-known Holbeck millowner, were elected as Whig members for Leeds in December, 1832 ; two years later, on being appointed to an important position in India, Macaulay resigned his seat, but in 1858, when Queen Victoria visited Leeds to open the new Town Hall, the famous historian was invited to write the address of welcome which was presented to her by the corporation. As a result of the later Reform Bills of the nineteenth century, Yorkshire obtained many more representatives in Parliament. At the present time, there are three Parliamentary divisions in the East Riding, four in the North Riding, and nineteen in the West Riding, whilst many of the chief towns have more than one member in the House of Commons.

No sooner had the Whig statesmen remedied some of the abuses in the central government, than they turned their attention to the reform of the system of local government, for the corporations were as corrupt as the constituencies. There were a good many ' Close Corporations ' in Yorkshire. Their members were not elected by the townspeople, but when one of their number died the vacancy would usually be filled by nomination on the part of the rest of the members. The burgesses, therefore, had no means of controlling their corporations, and any man whose religious or political views were at variance with those of the members of the council had little or no chance of being elected. Many of these old bodies had been created by royal charter, some of them centuries before. The case of Leeds is typical, though other Yorkshire boroughs had received their municipal freedom much



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THE TOWN HALL, LEEDS

earlier. The first corporation in Leeds was created by a charter of Charles I in 1626, and after the Restoration a similar grant from Charles II laid it down that in future aldermen and councillors were to hold office 'during their natural lives, unless they were removed for evil behaviour, or evil carriage, or for some other reasonable cause.' Such a system was not likely to survive the reforming zeal of the early nineteenth century, and it came to an end in 1835, with the passing of the Municipal Reform Act, one of the first measures placed on the Statute Book by the first reformed Parliament. In future, all municipal bodies were to be elected by the ratepayers, and within the next thirty or forty years all the principal centres of population in Yorkshire—Leeds, Sheffield, Bradford, Halifax, Wakefield, Hull, Middlesbrough, Dewsbury, Huddersfield and Rotherham—obtained popularly elected corporations, whilst many of the Yorkshire towns now rank as County Boroughs. Then followed the granting of similar powers to the people in the country districts. Hitherto, the affairs of the village had been to a great extent administered by the Justices of the Peace, but when the agricultural labourer was given the parliamentary vote by Gladstone's Reform Bill of 1884, it was no longer possible to withhold the municipal franchise. Within four years the County Councils Act of 1888, had laid the foundations of modern local self-government in rural England. Under the provisions of this Act the three Ridings of Yorkshire were each allotted a County Council, and at the present time these bodies meet at Wakefield, Beverley and Northallerton. They are responsible for the organisation in the country districts of education, the provision of police and the mainten-

ance of roads—services which are performed by the municipalities in the towns—and their duties and powers are likely to be increased considerably in the near future. Finally, in 1894, the establishment of Urban, Rural District and Parish Councils completed the machinery of local self-government.

This enthusiasm for reform in the State could not fail to affect the organisation of a far more venerable institution, the Church. During the eighteenth century men had been growing more tolerant in matters of religion, and in 1829 the repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts of Charles II's reign made it possible for Nonconformists to take their share in the government of their town and country. From the days of the Stuarts Nonconformity had been a force to be reckoned with in Yorkshire, especially in the West Riding, but its remarkable development at the time of the Industrial Revolution was largely due to John Wesley, who preached the first of his many sermons in the county at Birstall, on May 26, 1742. During the next fifty years Wesley paid over forty visits to the north of England, and, despite the rough handling he often received, the Methodists gained many adherents. There are few villages, even in the most remote parts of Yorkshire, that do not possess a chapel belonging to one or other of the denominations which owe their existence to the inspiration of John Wesley. The growth of Methodism, moreover, had important consequences for the Church of England. Many churchmen sympathised with Wesley's teaching, but did not wish to break away from the Established Church. The Evangelicals, as they were called, were particularly strong in Hull and Sheffield, William

Wilberforce being one of their most prominent laymen, and their zeal for foreign missionary work had a good deal to do with the abolition of negro slavery. Another influential group in the Church of England drew its inspiration from the Tractarian or Oxford Movement. The members of this party wished to restore some of the Roman Catholic usages and doctrines which had disappeared at the time of the Reformation ; they had a distinguished Yorkshire representative in the person of Walter Farquhar Hook, Vicar of Leeds from 1837 to 1859, who was responsible for the erection of twenty new churches in the town. St. Saviour's Church in Leeds was built by the famous Dr. Pusey, one of the most scholarly leaders of the High Church party. At the beginning of the nineteenth century the whole of Yorkshire was in the great diocese of York, but during the last 100 years four new dioceses have been created to cope with the increase of population. The diocese of Ripon was founded in 1836, Wakefield in 1888, Sheffield in 1914, and Bradford in 1920. These changes have affected chiefly the West Riding ; the whole of the East Riding and a good deal of the North are still under the care of the Archbishop of York. The Roman Catholics, like the Nonconformists, were relieved of most of their disabilities during the course of the last century. In 1871 their bishops were allowed for the first time to employ the names of English towns in their titles, and Yorkshire has now two Catholic dioceses, that of Leeds, which includes the West Riding, and that of Middlesbrough, which covers the rest of the county.

The nineteenth century, and especially the long reign of Queen Victoria, witnessed a series of measures of

social reform, intended to improve the condition of the mass of the people. The Industrial Revolution, despite its manifest achievements, entailed an evil legacy of poverty and discontent, and no part of the country suffered more from the changes in industrial organisation than Yorkshire. The earliest factories, placed on the spurs of the Pennine Chain, were driven by water power, and the blackened ruins of many an old, disused mill may still be seen on the banks of our West Riding 'becks.' The application of steam, however, to drive machinery, led to more elaborate and costly apparatus, housed in larger factories and employing more 'hands.' This meant a movement of industry from the country to the town, a change that was hastened by the increase in the number of enclosures towards the end of the eighteenth century. The conditions of life in these new manufacturing towns were almost indescribably bad, and the worst sufferers were the children of the poor. 'In the West Riding of Yorkshire,' said Lord Ashley, afterwards Lord Shaftesbury, the noble reformer, in 1840, 'it is not uncommon for infants even of five years to be sent to the pit ; about Halifax and the neighbourhood children are sometimes brought to the pits at the age of six years and taken out of their beds at four o'clock.' Two years later the report of a Royal Commission on industrial conditions in Yorkshire mentioned the case of a child of three actually being taken down the coal-mine to hold a candle for his father. The wages of these child workers were very small, rarely amounting to more than half a crown a week. Moreover, it was not only little boys who had to face a rough, pitiless world at this tender age ; even girls were employed in the pits for

dragging the coal waggons, harnessed like cattle, and crawling on all fours.

It is a fact of which we may well be proud that some of the first men to protest against this wretched system were Yorkshiremen. Richard Oastler, whose statue stands in Bradford, was one of the most prominent of these. In 1830 he began a series of letters to the *Leeds Mercury* under the heading 'Yorkshire Slavery,' which did much to arouse public opinion on the question of child labour. Another eminent social reformer was Michael Thomas Sadler, Tory Member of Parliament for Leeds, who is commemorated by a monument in the Parish Church of that city. He introduced the Ten Hours Bill into the House of Commons in 1830, though he was defeated by Macaulay in the famous election that took place in Leeds two years later. In a speech at Manchester Oastler recalled an incident which showed the enthusiasm for the measure in Yorkshire. 'One woman,' he told his audience, 'with a baby in her arms, walked seventy-five miles to attend the great county meeting at York on the Ten Hours Bill, in order that her child, if it grew up, might have the honour of saying that he had been present at that meeting.' In course of time the efforts of these good men were amply rewarded. Child labour has been not only restricted, but completely abolished by Act of Parliament, and the various Reform Bills have given to the working classes an opportunity of improving their conditions of life by constitutional means.

Political and social reforms, however, are of little value unless men and women know how to take advantage of them, and it is one of the chief tasks of our modern system of education to train them to use

their privileges as citizens wisely and well. This system is largely the creation of the nineteenth century, for it was not until political power had been placed in the hands of the people, that English statesmen began to realise that a national system of education was essential to good government and peaceful progress under modern conditions. In the eighteenth century, indeed, a number of the old Yorkshire Grammar Schools were doing useful work, and several of our modern Secondary Schools are connected with these ancient foundations. But they were quite inadequate for dealing with the new problems that arose as a result of the great increase of population in the industrial towns, and the State did not yet realise its responsibilities in the matter. The Sunday Schools that grew up after the Evangelical Revival rendered a great service to education, for in them many a poor child was taught the rudiments of reading and writing. It is interesting to note that the Yorkshire market town of Tadcaster claims to possess the oldest Sunday School building in England. Private individuals too, like Joseph Lancaster, the Quaker, founded schools for the benefit of the poor. One of these Lancasterian Schools, as they were called, used to stand between Boar Lane and Swinegate in Leeds. The National Schools of the Church of England also did valuable service in these early days of popular education. But until the year 1833, when the first Government grant was made for educational purposes, there was no official recognition of the fact that the question was one of national importance. Thirteen years later the Education Department, now the Board of Education, was constituted, and then in 1870 came the first great

Education Act. This provided for the erection of Board Schools, or Council Schools, as they were called later, which offered primary education to the children of all, rich and poor alike. The chief credit for this Act belongs to Yorkshire. Its author, W. E. Forster, who like so many nineteenth-century reformers was of Quaker stock, was Member of Parliament for Bradford, a city which has named its principal square after him ; his grave, in the churchyard of Burley-in-Wharfedale, is only a few miles away.

Since 1870 far-reaching developments have taken place in both elementary and higher education. Within the last thirty years, numerous Secondary Schools have been built by the County and Borough Councils of Yorkshire, the West Riding being particularly fortunate in this respect, owing to the increase in population in that part of the county. Many of the old Grammar Schools, too, have entered upon a new lease of life, whilst the valuable Scholarships to Oxford founded in the eighteenth century by Lady Elizabeth Hastings, of Ledstone Hall, near Castleford, have benefited generations of Yorkshire schoolboys. Only one other English county can claim to possess two universities. The University of Leeds, which received its charter in 1904, originated thirty years before as the Yorkshire College, just as Firth College, founded in 1879, became the University of Sheffield in 1905. Quite recently, moreover, in connection with the Workers' Educational Association and similar bodies, there has been an attempt to bring persons who have no opportunity of attending the university into touch with its culture and influence, and in this movement Yorkshire has played a leading part, as the following

extract from a Board of Education Report on Adult Education in Yorkshire, published in 1928, shows : 'Yorkshire in population represents about one-ninth of England and Wales ; in the extent of its adult educational enterprise it represents about one-fifth. In other words, out of a number difficult to estimate, but probably not exceeding 60,000 students attached to organised bodies, more than 10,000 are to be found in Yorkshire.' This fact alone should be sufficient to refute the charge, so often brought against the men and women of our county, that they think of money and material things alone.

CHAPTER XI

CONCLUSION

IN a brief sketch of this kind, dealing with the greatest of English counties, it has been impossible to pay fitting homage to all the noble and gifted men and women who have helped to make its history. Before bringing our story to a close, therefore, let us just glance at a few of the more outstanding names upon our Yorkshire Roll of Honour that have received little or no mention in the preceding pages.

The 'Shire of the Broad Acres' has always bred soldiers and men of action. From the far-off days in which the Brigantes made their last heroic stand against the mighty power of Rome ; through the Middle Ages, when civil strife was frequent and the fear of Scottish raids was never absent ; in Stuart times when Cavalier and Roundhead fought their fiercest fight hard by the gates of York ; down to the Great War of our own time—the men of Yorkshire have proved their valour on the battlefield. Of explorers and adventurers, too, our county can claim a fair share. Of some of those who lived in the Age of the Renaissance, when the eyes of men were turned eagerly towards the west, we have already spoken ; others achieved fame and fortune in the exploration of northern seas. In the eighteenth century the Greenland whale fisheries proved to be

highly remunerative, and the seamen of Hull and Whitby were amongst the pioneers in this enterprise. One of these, William Scoresby, a native of Cropton, near Pickering, and the commander of the *Resolution*, of Whitby, reached in 1806 the 'farthest north' that had then been attained by English navigators. His son was not only an explorer, but a man of science also, who conducted valuable experiments dealing with the effect of iron ships on the mariner's compass, and a divine, who was successively Curate of Bessingby, near Bridlington, and Vicar of Bradford. But the greatest of our Yorkshire seamen was undoubtedly Captain Cook, the 200th anniversary of whose birth is being celebrated in 1928. Born of humble parents at the village of Marton, in Cleveland, he was apprenticed to a shopkeeper at Staithes, but soon ran away to sea on a Whitby ship. His three voyages round the world are a matter of imperial history, resulting as they did in the addition of Australia and New Zealand to the Empire.

Yorkshire, however, has been rich in scholars and thinkers as well as in men of action. During the Middle Ages no part of England possessed a greater number of monastic houses, and this may help to account for the many eminent medieval scholars on our Roll of Honour. Caedmon, the Father of English Poetry, will always be associated with the foundation of Whitby Abbey. William of Newburgh, who lived in the priory of that name near Coxwold, wrote one of the earliest histories of England, and another chronicler, Roger of Howden, undertook the task of completing Bede's *Ecclesiastical History* up to his own days at the beginning of the thirteenth century. Walter Heming-

burgh, a canon of Guisborough, ranks high as an original authority for the reigns of the first three Edwards, when Yorkshire was being troubled by the Scots, whilst Peter of Langtoft, a Canon of Bridlington Priory, composed a rhyming chronicle of English history in French verse. John Wyclif, the 'Morning Star of the Reformation,' was a north Yorkshireman, as was Miles Coverdale, one of the translators of our Bible. Amongst the scholars of the Renaissance period, Yorkshire claims Roger Ascham, the tutor of Queen Elizabeth, and Sir Thomas Browne, whose famous work, the *Religio Medici*, was partly written at Shibden Hall whilst its author was practising as a doctor in Halifax. Richard Bentley, one of the most learned classical scholars of the seventeenth century, was born at Oulton and educated at Wakefield Grammar School. John Tillotson, Archbishop of Canterbury in the reign of William III, whom the historian Lecky calls 'the most popular of living preachers,' was the son of a clothier at Sowerby Bridge. The father of William Paley, author of the *Evidences of Christianity*, was Headmaster of Giggleswick School. Bishop Thirlwall wrote his *History of Greece* in the rectory of Kirby Underdale on the Yorkshire Wolds, whilst another great historian, Bishop Stubbs of Oxford, was born at Knaresborough in 1825. A typical eighteenth-century Yorkshire cleric, whose fame as a parson was eclipsed by his repute as a novelist, was Laurence Sterne. Sterne was successively Vicar of Sutton-in-the-Forest, Stillington and Coxwold—all of them villages in the Plain of York. Whilst occupying the living of Coxwold, he resided in the house now known as Shandy Hall, where, as he tells us, he 'sat

down to all the simple plenty which a rich valley (under Hambleton Hills) could produce.' Here he completed *Tristram Shandy* and wrote *The Sentimental Journey*. Another Yorkshire parsonage, that of the moorland village of Haworth in the West Riding, has literary associations of a very different kind, for it was the early home of that little group of gifted sisters, the children of the Reverend Patrick Bronte, whose novels, *Jane Eyre*, *Shirley*, and *Wuthering Heights* give an unforgettable picture of Yorkshire life 100 years ago. A North Riding novelist, whose tales of the land 'between the heather and the northern sea' have a peculiar charm of their own, was Mary Linskill; she is buried in the churchyard of Whitby, the 'Monkshaven' of her novels. In our own day, excellent stories dealing with various types of Yorkshire character have been written by J. S. Fletcher and Halliwell Sutcliffe, whilst in the field of scholarship the county has an eminent representative in the person of Dr. Inge, Dean of St. Paul's. Nor must we forget Frederick Delius, the composer, who was born at Bradford.

These are but a few of those who by their genius have brought credit and renown to the county of their birth. What of the humbler folk, who have left no memorial, but who have spent hard lives of toil in field and factory, mill and mine? In spite of certain obvious points of contact between English people all the world over, there are, nevertheless, traits and qualities that serve to distinguish the men of Yorkshire from those of other shires. For centuries observers have remarked upon the sturdy independence, the love of straight speaking and straight dealing, and the warm-hearted hospitality which are characteristic of Yorkshire people.

It may be that the modern Yorkshire 'tyke' is not so different from the folk in other parts of England as his fathers were, for the progress of education is gradually tending to destroy our local modes of speech, just as developments in transport are bringing us together more frequently and breaking down time-honoured prejudice and custom. There is all the more reason, therefore, why we should reverence and guard those monuments of our county's history that serve to remind us of 'the rock whence we were hewn and the pit whence we were digged.' Signs, fortunately, are not wanting that we are becoming increasingly aware of the value of these things. Our Yorkshire abbeys, it is true, are bare and roofless, but never since their dissolution have they been so carefully tended as they are to-day, and never have more people taken an intelligent interest in their preservation. There are few of our villages, too, that cannot teach us something of the past, for, as Mr. Belloc tells us in one of his delightful essays, 'In every inch of England you can find the history of England.' It may be some ancient earth-work on the moor, a specimen of Norman carving in the village church, or the quaint, homely name of some country lane or field, but to the seeing eye these things are full of meaning and a constant source of joy. And if it be true that the only patriotism worthy of the name is rooted in a passionate love of our own countryside and its traditions, then we Yorkshire folk have every reason to be proud. Our homeland holds a worthy place amongst the shires of England for the varied beauty of its landscape and the civic spirit of its people, whilst its inheritance of historic achievement is one of rare and outstanding merit.

GLOSSARY

C = Celtic.

F = French.

L = Latin.

N = Norse.

R = Roman.

(f) = a woman's name.

These explanations of Yorkshire place-names need to be read with care, for the study of the subject depends upon a consideration of early forms of spelling, in the absence of which we can only guess possible meanings and probably go astray. To show the need for caution, an example, illustrating the variety and complexity of early forms, is given in the case of York, and many another instance might be quoted from studies such as Goodall's Place Names of South-West Yorkshire, 1914, and Smith's Place Names of the North Riding, 1928. The names in this county, however, are very numerous, and only a selection may be recorded here; such as are mentioned may be assumed, in the absence of contractions indicated above, to be of Early English or Anglo-Saxon origin. For guidance italicised forms are given from Domesday or other ancient sources, and in the latter case dates are given as well. Finally, for the sake of brevity, ham (or tun), ley and ing (in its personal sense) are shortly translated farm, clearing, and the people of respectively.

ABERFORD : *Ædburgforth* (1200). Eadburg's ford (f).

AIRE (C) : *Air* (1218). River name.

ALDBOROUGH : *Isurium* (R), *Vetus Burgum* (1203). Latin for *eald*; Mercian *ald burh*. 'Old fort.'

ASKRIGG : *Ascric*. 'Ash ridge.'

BARNSLEY : *Berneslai*. 'Beorn's clearing.'

BARWICK : *Berewich*. 'Barley house.'

BATLEY : *Bateleia*, *Bathelie*. 'Bata's clearing.'

BAWTRY : *Baltry* (1232). 'Balthere's low-lying place.'

BEDALE : *Bedale*. Perhaps 'by the dale.'

BEVERLEY : *Beureli*, *Beurelie*. 'Beaver clearing.'

BEWHOLME : *Begun*. 'Begha's farm.'

BILBOROUGH : *Mileburg* (? from Milo). 'Stronghold of Billa.'

BILTON : *Billetone*, *Bileton*. 'Billa's farm.'

BOLTON : *Bodeltone*, *Bodetone*. 'Farm-stead.'

BOROUGHBRIDGE : *Ponteburg* (1380). 'Fortified bridge.' (See Pontefract.)

- BRADFORD : *Bradeford*. 'Broad ford.'
- BRIDLINGTON : *Bretlinton*. Perhaps 'farm of Bretel.'
- CALDER (C) : *Kelder* (1202). River name. 'Spring.'
- CASTLEFORD : *Legeolium* (R), *Ceasterforda* (948). 'Fortress-ford.'
- CLEVELAND : *Clivelande* (1093). 'Cliff-land.'
- COLNE (G) : *Kalne* (? 1300). River name.
- DERWENT (C) : *Derventione* (R). River name.
- DEWSBURY : *Deusberia*, *Deusberie*. 'Stronghold of Dewe.'
- DON (C) : Origin uncertain. River name.
- DONCASTER : *Danum* (R), *Donecestre* (1004), *Donecastre* (Lat. *castra*).
'The camp by the Don.' (See Tadcaster.)
- DRIFFIELD : *Driffelda* (c. 1050), *Drifeld*, *Drifelt*. 'Dry field.'
- EASINGWOLD : *Eisicewalt*, *Eisincewald*. 'Wood of the people of Esi.'
- ESK (C) : *Esce* (800). River name. 'Water.'
- FILEY : *Fiuelac*. 'Five pools.'
- FLAMBOROUGH (N) : *Flaneburc*, *Flaneburg*. 'Fleinn's stronghold.'
- GISBURN : *Ghiseburne*. 'Gisa's brook.'
- GOODMANHAM : *Gudmundham*. Bede gives *Godmundigaham*. 'God-mund's farm.'
- GOOLE (F) : *Gowle* (1553). Origin doubtful. 'Ditch.'
- GUISBOROUGH : *Ghigesborg*. Perhaps 'Gaga's stronghold.'
- HALIFAX : *Halifax* (1268). A difficult name. 'Holy heath.'
- HARROGATE (N) : *Hayura* or *Heywray* in 1600. 'Enclosed wayside corner.' A late refinement.
- HATFIELD : *Hethfeld* (633), *Hedfeld*. 'Heath field.'
- HELMSLEY : *Elmeslac*, *Hamelsec*, *Almeslai*. 'Helm's clearing.'
- HOLDERNESSE (N) : *Heldrenesse*, *Heldernessee*. 'High Reeve's cape.'
- HORNSEA : *Hornesse*. 'Horn's peninsula.'
- HOWDEN : *Holeden* (1202). 'Hollow valley.'
- HUDDERSFIELD : *Oderesfelt*, *Odersfelt*, *Odresfeld*. 'Field of Huder.'
- HULL : River name. 'Hollow.' Kingston-on-Hull so named by Edward I. in 1299. In 1552 simply *Kingston*.
- HUMBER : *Humbre* (890). Probably aspirated form of *cumber* = 'confluence.'
- HUNMANBY (N) : *Hundemanebi*. 'Huneman's dwelling.'
- ILKLEY : *Illicleia*, *Illiclei*, *Illeclive*. Perhaps 'Ulfeg's clearing.'
- INGLEBOROUGH : Probably 'barrow of the Angle,' an Englishman.
- JERVAULX (F) : *Jerovalle* (1297). Pronounced 'Jarvis.' Jer(o)-uncertain. 'Valley.'
- KEIGHLEY : *Chichelai*. 'Cyga's clearing.'
- KIRKHAM : *Chercam*. 'Church farm.' *Kirk* is the Northern form of 'church.'

- KIRKSTALL** : *Kirkestal* (1237). 'Church place.' The abbey founded 1147-52.
- KNARESBOROUGH** : *Chenaresburg*. 'Kenward's stronghold.'
- LASTINGHAM** : *Lestingau* (Bede), *Lestingeham*. 'Settlement of the Lestings.'
- LEEDS** : *Loidis* (Bede), *Ledes*. Doubtful. 'Leodi's place.'
- MALTON** : *Maltun*. Also doubtful. 'Malt farm.'
- MARKET WEIGHTON** : *Wicstun*. 'Wicga's farm.' The market town of the hundred of that name.
- MASHAM** : *Massan*. Probably at 'Massa's farm.'
- MEAUX (F)** : *Melse*. Named from the place whence the founders of the monastery came.
- MEXBOROUGH (N)** : *Mechesburg*. 'Stronghold of Meke.'
- MIDDLEHAM** : *Middelham*. 'Middle farm.'
- MIDDLETON** : *Mildetone*, *Mildentone*. 'Middle Farm.'
- MORLEY** : *Moreleia*, *Morlege*, *Morleia*. 'Moorland clearing.'
- NORMANTON (N)** : *Normatune*. 'Northman's farm.'
- NORTHALLERTON** : *Alvretune*. 'North farm of Ælfhere.'
- OTLEY** : *Othelai*. 'Otta's clearing.'
- OUSE (C)** : *Use* (1008). River name. 'Water.'
- PATRINGTON** : *Patricitone*. 'Patrick's farm.'
- PENNINE (C)** : Appears to be derived from the Celtic word for 'hill.' The range seems to have no ancient history.
- PICKERING** : *Pickeringa*, *Pickeringe*. 'Farm of the people of Pickere.'
- POCKLINGTON** : *Poclinton*. Probably 'Pucela's farm.'
- PONTEFRACT (F)** : First *Taddenesscylfe* (947)—'Tadden's slope'—and *Tateshale* (1086)—'Tate's corner.'—then *Pontefracto* (1190) and *Pomfreit* (1287). These Latin and Norman-French forms mean 'broken bridge.' The bridge was destroyed in 1069.
- REDCAR** : *Redkier* (1179). 'Red rock.'
- RICHMOND (F)** : Richmond (1366). 'Strong hill.'
- RIDING (N)** : *Reding*, *Treding*. 'Third part.'
- RIEVAULX (F)** : *Rievalle* (1132). 'Valley of the Rye.'
- RIPON** : *Hrypi* (709), *Ripum* (Lat. *ripa*). 'On the banks' (of the Ure).
- ROTHER** : *Reder* (1276). River name formed from the place name.
- ROTHERHAM** : *Rodreham*. 'Farm of the oxen.'
- SCARBOROUGH** : *Scardebure* (1179). 'Stronghold on the sheared-off place.'
- SELBY (N)** : *Selebi* (1130). Doubtful. 'Sele's dwelling.'
- SETTLE** : *Setel*. 'Resting-place.'
- SHEAF** : *Scheth* (12th cent.). River name, indicating 'separation.'
- SHEFFIELD** : *Scafeld*, *Escafeld*. Formed from the river name. 'Boundary field.'

- SHERBURN : *Scireburn*. 'Boundary brook.'
- SILKSTONE : *Silchestone*. 'Sylc's farm.'
- SKIPTON : *Scipton, Schipetune*. 'Sheep farm.'
- SNAITH (N) : *Esneid*. 'Boundary.'
- STOKESLEY : *Stocheslage*. 'Clearing of the Stoke' or 'place.'
- SWALE : *Sualua* (Bede). River name. Perhaps 'swelling stream.'
- TADCASTER : *Tatecastre*. Probably 'camp of Tada.' A hybrid from Lat. *castra* and old Eng. *ceaster* = a camp.
- THIRSK (C) : *Treske*. An exceptional name. 'House on the water.'
- TICKHILL : *Dadesleia, Tykehull* (1130). Etymology doubtful. 'Tica's hill.'
- WAKEFIELD (N) : *Wachefeld, Wachefelt*. 'Waca's field.'
- WETHERBY (N) : *Wedrebi*. Perhaps 'Wedr's dwelling.'
- WHARFE (N) : *Hwerf* (1130). 'Turning.'
- WHITBY (N) : *Witerbi*. 'Hwita's dwelling.' Bede records *Streonshalh* = 'bay of the lighthouse.'
- WITHERNSEA : *Widfornessei, Wilfornes*. 'Peninsula of (the people of) Wihthere.'
- YARM : *Iarun, Ger-ou*. 'A place.'
- YORK : A name of astonishing complexity, of which the chief forms may thus be displayed for comparative purposes :—
- | | | | |
|--------|--------------------------------------|------|---------------------------|
| 380 | <i>Ebur-, Eboracum</i> . | 1086 | <i>Euruic</i> (Dom.). |
| c. 730 | <i>Ecclesia Eboracensis</i> . (Bede) | 1198 | <i>Everwic</i> . |
| 780 | <i>Euborica Civitas</i> . | 1205 | <i>Eborac, Eoverwic</i> . |
| c. 900 | <i>Eoforwic</i> (O.E. Chron. 738). | 1275 | <i>Euerwich</i> . |
| 998 | <i>Eurwich</i> . | 1298 | <i>Everwyke</i> . |
| 1000 | <i>Eferwic</i> . | 1386 | <i>York</i> . |

The name at first meant 'marshy place.' Then the Celtic name was Latinised by the Romans, who changed it from *Eborach* to *Eboracum*. But although the Angles may have adopted a form in reference to the river, giving it the meaning of 'the settlement on the Ure,' it was through Danish influence that the pronunciation of *Euruic* became *Jorvik*, and finally, about 1380, *York*.

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